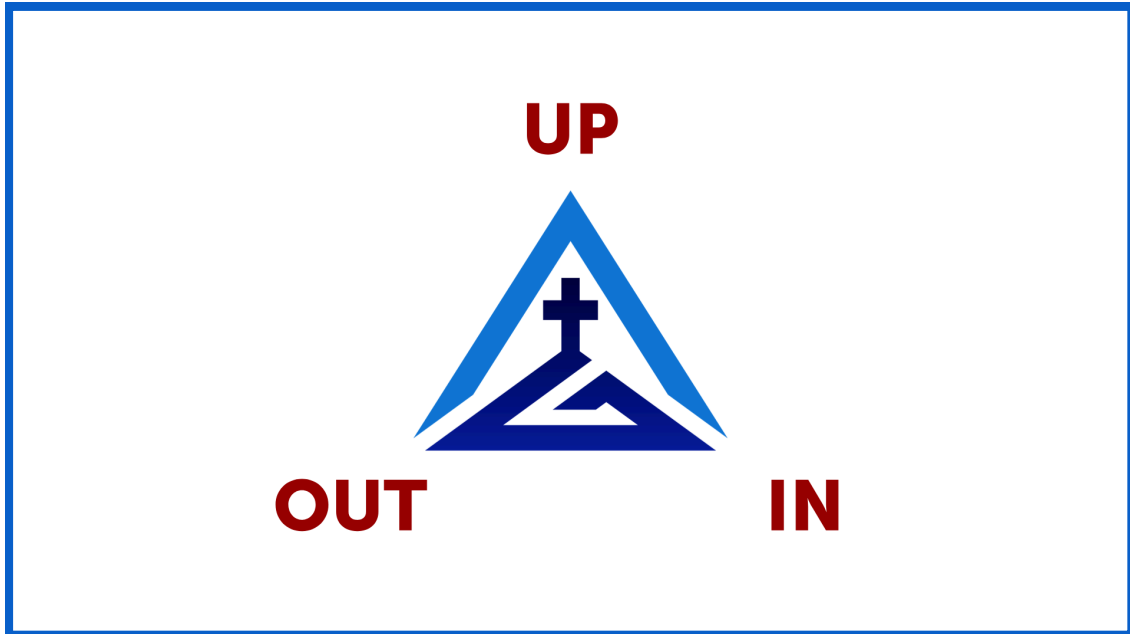


WEEK OF MARCH 22, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



CALLING OF THE TWELVE
Luke 6:12-19

Provided by



AKRON GRACE CHURCH
101 N. 7th Street, Akron PA
www.akrongrace.com

Listen to the full message on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@akrongracechurch6363

Luke 6:12-19

One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names: Simon (whom he named Peter), Andrew (Peter's brother), James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (who was called the zealot), Judas (son of James), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

Day 1: The Source of All Relationships

Devotional

Every healthy relationship in your life has something in common, it flows from your connection with God. When we examine our most meaningful friendships, marriages, and family bonds, we discover they're anchored in Christ. Your relationship with your Heavenly Father isn't just another item on your spiritual checklist, but the wellspring from which all other connections draw their strength. Jesus demonstrated this perfectly by spending entire nights in prayer before making crucial decisions. He understood that without this foundational relationship, everything else becomes unstable. When your 'up' relationship with God is thriving, you bring His love, grace, and wisdom into every interaction. However, when it's neglected, even your best relationships struggle under the weight of unmet expectations and human limitations. This isn't about perfection, but about priority. God desires to be the source of your identity, your peace, and your capacity to love others well.

Bible Verse

'One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night.' - Luke 6:12

'Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.' - Mark 1:35

Reflection Question

Looking at your closest relationships, how do you see the health of your relationship with God reflected in them?

Quote

This up relationship [with God], this is the source. Everything else that we talk about flows from here. If we are broken in this, we will find brokenness in every other relationship that we have.

Prayer

Father, help me prioritize my relationship with You above all others. Teach me to find my identity and strength in You so I can love others from a place of fullness rather than need. Amen.

Day 2: Chosen for Community

Devotional

Jesus had the entire world to choose from, yet He selected twelve of the most unlikely candidates for His inner circle. Fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, each broken in their own way, each bringing their unique struggles and perspectives. This wasn't a strategic oversight, but was intentional design. God doesn't call us into community because we're perfect or because we have it all figured out. He calls us together precisely because we need each other to grow. Your church family isn't meant to be a collection of people who never disagree or struggle. It's a group committed to walking through real life together, celebrating victories and supporting each other through failures. The beauty of Christian community lies not in our perfection but in our shared commitment to become more like Jesus together. When we embrace this truth, we stop expecting others to meet all our needs and start focusing on how we can contribute to their growth and healing.

Bible Verse

'At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names:' - Luke 6:13

Reflection Question

How has God used imperfect people in your life to help you grow spiritually and emotionally?

Quote

He took the most diverse and imperfect group of 12 that you could find. From fishermen to tax collectors to zealots, every one of them broken in their own way, every one of them empowered by the Holy Spirit, eventually.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for placing imperfect people in my life who love me and challenge me to grow. Help me extend the same grace to others that You've shown to me. Amen.

Day 3: Moving Toward the Need

Devotional

While others might retreat from messy situations or difficult people, Jesus consistently moved toward the need. He didn't send His disciples to handle the crowds while He stayed safely removed. Instead, He brought them with Him into the midst of hurting humanity. This reveals something profound about God's heart. He doesn't just care about our spiritual needs, but He cares about our whole lives as well. Your calling to reach others isn't limited to sharing Bible verses or inviting people to church. It's about stepping into their world with genuine love and concern. This might mean befriending a struggling neighbor, listening to a coworker's problems, or simply being present when someone is going through a difficult season. The goal isn't to fix everyone or have all the answers. It's to be a light in the darkness, pointing people toward the hope and healing found in Jesus. When your heart breaks for those who don't know God's love, you'll find yourself naturally moving toward them rather than away.

Bible Verse

'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.' - Matthew 9:36

'They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.' - Luke 6:18-19

Reflection Question

Who in your life needs to experience God's love through your presence and care? How can you move toward them this week?

Quote

Jesus, we notice, moves toward the need. He doesn't retract away from it saying, "Well, you guys take care of it." No, he comes and he does it.

Prayer

God, give me Your heart for those who are hurting and lost. Help me move toward people with compassion rather than judgment, being Your hands and feet in their lives. Amen.

Day 4: Living in Perfect Balance

Devotional

Jesus lived these three relationships, up, in, and out, in perfect harmony. His connection with the Father fueled His love for His disciples, which empowered His mission to the world. However, while we don't live these relationships perfectly, we're not expected to. God's grace covers our failures and His Spirit empowers our growth. The goal isn't perfection, but progress. Some seasons of life might require more focus on your relationship with God as you work through personal struggles. Other times, you might be called to invest heavily in your church community or reach out to those who don't know Jesus. The key is maintaining awareness of all three relationships and allowing God to guide your priorities. When you feel overwhelmed or like you're failing in one area, remember that your identity isn't found in your performance. It's found in Jesus, who lived these relationships perfectly on your behalf and now lives through you by His Spirit.

Bible Verse

'My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' - Galatians 2:20

Reflection Question

Which of these three relationships (up, in, out) feels most challenging for you right now? How can you invite God into that struggle?

Quote

“Jesus lived three relationships up, in and out perfectly. Absolutely perfectly. But, we don't...”

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for living these relationships perfectly when I cannot. Help me trust in Your grace as I grow in my connections with You, others, and those who need to know You. Amen.

Day 5: The Heart That Cannot Stay Silent

Devotional

When Jesus truly changes your life, something remarkable happens. You can't help but share it. Not because you're required to, but because the transformation is so real, so profound, that keeping it to yourself becomes impossible. Think about the last time something amazing happened to you. Didn't you naturally want to tell someone? That's the heart God wants to cultivate in us regarding our faith. Sharing Jesus isn't about having perfect theology or being able to answer every question. It's about authentically expressing how God has worked in your life. Maybe He's brought you peace in anxiety, hope in depression, or purpose in confusion. Your story matters because it's uniquely yours, and someone needs to hear it. The person sitting next to you at work, your neighbor across the street, or the friend you've known for years are all waiting to see authentic faith lived out. When your heart is truly broken for those who don't know God's love, you'll find yourself naturally looking for opportunities to share His goodness.

Bible Verse

'And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.' - 2 Corinthians 5:18

Reflection Question

When was the last time you shared how God has worked in your life with someone who doesn't know Him? What's holding you back from doing it more often?

Quote

“One in three Christians have not shared the Gospel with another person in the past six months. If He [God] has truly changed your life, which I know He has, how could you not? How could any of us not? When is the last time you shared your faith with someone?”

Prayer

Father, break my heart for those who don't know You. Give me courage and natural opportunities to share how You've changed my life with others who need Your hope. Amen.