

FINDING HOPE & GROWTH + + +

SETH FLICK

Amen, I praise the Lord for you guys. I praise the Lord for what Christ has done for us in 2025. And I praise the Lord for my fellow campus directors here. So if you haven't met us, I'm Peter Bay. I get to be campus director at King of Kings Northwest.

I'm Seth Flick. I get to be campus director here at Miller Campus, King of Kings. My name's Tyler. I'm campus director out at King of Kings, Fremont. And we get to share God's Word with you guys today. And we're gonna actually do that by walking through some questions that I've put together here for you guys.

The first thing I want to talk about, in 2025, I had a Bible verse that I kind of ruminated on. And it's actually been one that's been a staple for me for the last few years. But I'm wondering for you guys, if you have a verse, like going into 26, or one that you had in 25. So my verse for 25 is Philippians 4, 6, and 7: do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication on Thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

I have really discovered in 2025 that what I put into my mind is what consumes me. I had a goal for this year to listen and read more Bible than social media. And I failed. But I will complete, in just these last couple days of the year, I will complete the entire Bible in a year. So it's the first time I've ever done that. And it's filled me with joy and the promises of God, and it's helped me to be less anxious. So how about you guys?

Well, I think that's a key there. It's helping me to be less anxious, because it doesn't mean just by reading the Bible that it's a magical formula or something like that. This is what happens when anxiety comes into your life. You are now filled with God's Word, God's hope, God's spirit that can push the effects of anxiety away. So I love the wisdom that you bring in that.

For me, what I would love to be thinking about is more of a focus just on Jesus. So for me, I'm looking at Mark chapter 9, verse 8. This is in the story of the transfiguration. The disciples, especially Peter, James, and John, they have seen Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration. That's a huge hero for them. Elijah, a huge hero. They've seen Jesus. They've heard the voice of the Father speaking. Now, all of a sudden, the clouds kind of obstruct all of their views at this big high mountaintop experience. And Mark 9, verse 8 says, after the clouds overshadowed them, seeing only Jesus, they then descended down the mountain.

And that's for me what I want to focus on. I would love for all of God's people to focus on is that despite the high highs, despite everything that's going on in life, whether it's really good like with the disciples or maybe a struggle, that in 2026, our focus is on seeing only Jesus. So that's what I would love for all of us to kind of take away with for next year.

That's beautiful. Yeah. Amen.

Amen, Pastor Seth. So for a course earlier this semester, we were invited to just read through the Gospel of John over the course of the week. And may I just encourage you, Church, if you haven't recently, like read an entire book of the Bible straight through. And then do that. Like so much of our faith can sometimes be kind of like slogan Christianity. And you get so much by just going through an entire book.

And so I was just asking the Lord, like, God, would you highlight something out of John that just really, really would stand out? And for me, it was the familiar story of John 4. So chapter 4, Peter, something about the chapter 4 is here with Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman. And how many times the word give shows up, and Jesus is the one giving. And so he gave us the well, he is the gift of God. She says, give me a drink. And then it culminates in this beautiful verse, chapter 14, whoever drinks of the water that I will give him, this is Jesus speaking, will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

And so what I've just been really ruminating on, and I encourage our people out there on the other side of our service today, is Jesus is a giver. He gives good gifts. And we are in the blessed position to receive what earlier in the Gospel of John says, grace upon grace.

Yeah. And just to add one more like little note from that, how those streams of living water we get to experience and have experienced this past year in baptisms. As a campus director, and I'm sure you guys could speak about this too, how powerful it's been to see the movement of God's Spirit working through baptism to change lives.

I love it.

Absolutely. Yeah, that was, and that was John 4, 14. For those of you who are following along at home in your Bibles, check that one out.

And you talk about focusing my eyes, your eyes on Christ. And in 2026, I would say if there's like one thing that I have hope for in the future is Jesus. I mean, at Kings Northwest, we're hoping to launch some new Bible opportunities in our connect groups, and we're hoping to grow our worship and our volunteer teams. But fixing our eyes on Christ and not being distracted and kind of like not blocking out the world entirely because we can't, but almost like seeing Christ with the world blurrily in the back. Can't avoid it. But how do I see life through Christ?

When you guys think of this coming year, what gives you hope? Pastor Zach preached this amazing message, what, six weeks ago, specifically answering the question, why am I struggling to have hope for my future? And so if you haven't watched that, or if you just need to rewatch it, do it.

But as I've been thinking about this, I'm thinking about just how much God's people can do when we do things together. Ephesians 4 talks a lot about unity and having one Lord and one Spirit, one baptism, one faith.

And I see it in our Fremont context, even in the community, there's a growing sense of unity in our congregation. And then even just in our family, you know, we moved cross country, Seth, you moved

cross country in this last year. The enemy is always looking to divide. But what I'm having just like increasing hope for is like, oh, I'm just seeing a greater oneness. And that's obviously a oneness under Jesus. But man, if we're doing it together, we can do everything.

Yeah. So you brought up like moving cross country and you were talking about like, what could we look forward to for 2026? Well, for me, it just goes back to that verse about seeing only Jesus.

Because when you make large transitions in your life, and I'm sure you've probably gone through this too. The one thing that we're usually not protecting ourselves is from the chaos of everything else that's kind of peppering all around us. And it gets really difficult to kind of like move all those other things around to see Jesus on the other side of it.

So for me, what's giving me hope about 2026 is how 2025 is ending with much more of a focus on Jesus and his grace for my family specifically. And if that can happen in my household, despite moving seven people, two dogs, a cat, multiple vehicles and the whole shebang from one part of the country to the other.

If he can do that for us in our state of ridiculousness, what's he going to do then in 2026 as we have that laser focus on Jesus? And two minivans and five boys from age what to what? 18 to like, I don't know.

He acts more like he's 31. So I mean, they're all over the place and they're all like much bigger than I am. And we shouldn't all fit in one van, but we try it anyways.

When you were talking about finding Jesus in the noise, it reminded me of Benton when he was three years old. We're at Gorman's searching for something.

What is a Gorman's?

Yeah, it sounds like a department store full of gourds and pumpkins and pretty much is like with like a frog holding the pumpkin. It's nice.

What anything you want to find, you can find it as one of those home goods stores.

Got it.

And Benton went missing. And after 30 seconds, my breath starts to quit and quicken. And after a minute, I start to panic and after a couple minutes, it's like my mind starts making up terrible narratives. And turns out he was just hiding and we found him and it was all okay.

But it kind of reminds me of that picture. Like I was once lost and God found me through Christ. He found me. And it makes me also think about who are the people that are lost around me. And am I too distracted by the things that I'm trying to numb myself with, or by the busyness to not only see Christ, but also see the people around me who Christ is ready to find.

And so one of the things that I'm when I think about Christ and the impact of my life is I think about how he has found me and all the difference that has made and how I want that to be the difference in the people around me.

So when you think of Christ, what impact does he make in your life?

Yeah, it was there's that great story in the in the Gospels where there's this crazy storm on the Sea of Galilee. And the disciples actually go to go to Jesus. And he said, and they say to him, Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing? Which is a great question to ask directly to Jesus. And then he speaks these three words, he says, peace, be still.

You know, Seth, he talked about just the chaos of life. And we're all experiencing that in one way or another. So what I've really just received this year, and I still have plenty of space to grow in it, is God speaking his peace into my chaos, the chaos that's around me, the chaos that's within me.

And then we can say with those disciples, who is he that even the wind and the waves obey him because he's God.

So I love when you're talking about peace, because for me, when you ask the question, what does Jesus mean to you? I always think like my testimony about how he's interacted with me isn't good enough. So I've heard so many great, wonderful testimonies, and they're all true.

So I'm not like downplaying them at all, where somebody was in prison, and all of a sudden, Jesus found them. And they did a 180 because they murdered a bunch of people. And now they're speaking life, you know, or they're addicted to drugs, or, you know, the drugs of society. And all of a sudden, they turned it all around only because of the grace of Jesus.

And I looked at my testimony, and I think like, I'm just like everybody else, you know, like, at least in my sphere that I know is Jesus came into my life before I even could verbalize that he's in my life. I mean, I was probably about eight days old, I think, when I was baptized. And so like, for the longest time, I almost resented my own testimony, because I was like, well, it's not big enough. It's not grand enough.

But then I've come to terms, like just being a little bit older, my life and wiser to look back and say, look at all he protected me from, look at everything he preserved me from having to experience and look how faithful he was throughout my entire life to meet me that early and stand by me, despite all of the junk that I subjected him to in my life, while I wasn't really paying attention to him.

And so what Jesus means to me is just the steady, faithful presence in my life that I can always count on being there when I need to hear grace, because this brain and this heart and this flesh will speak so many words of not life that I need Jesus to always be that faithful presence.

That's what he means to me.

Amen. That's excellent.

Well, we're launching into twenty twenty six. And as we come into this new year, I'm wondering from you guys, what are some good things that we could take with us that can help us dive further into our relationship with Christ?

I know for me, my favorite one of my favorite kids Bibles is the Jesus storybook. I love that. And if you haven't experienced that one, get that one. Every single Bible event points to Jesus.

Another resource that I love is right now, media. And King of Kings actually gives that to all of our attendees. And so go online and find that link and get on right now. Media for Bible studies and great Christian content.

What other things do you guys have that can help us all launch into twenty twenty six and know God more?

Yeah, I totally get behind the kids storybook, Jesus storybook, Bible, incredible. And like you said, pointing every single Bible event back to Christ, which is so beautiful.

We just wrapped up three weeks and then Christmas Eve and kind of this family focus as a church. I think one of the best ways that we can go about following Jesus in our homes is through recognizing, man, we really are all broken. We really are all sinners.

And so I'm saying this to myself and I'm saying this to parents out there. What does it look like stepping into twenty twenty six to like acknowledge your shortcomings to your kids and to your spouse and ask for forgiveness and then extend forgiveness in the name of Jesus? That could be the most transformational aspect of this next year.

Amen.

All right. Last thing is we're going to be real quick. Action Bible. I love that Bible because it's organized like a comic book. There's some stuff in there that, you know, like you want to talk to your pastor about.

Jesus storybook Bible, great for animation, but also Jesus in the Old Testament.

And the Filament Bible is my new favorite. Show it off, man.

Here it is. It's the Filament Bible looks like any other normal Bible. There are no study notes really inside of it. But you take your phone out, you have the Filament app and it actually gives you study notes, devotions, videos that help you understand that specific page of the scripture.

So it makes a deep dive, a deep dive.

It makes a good devotional time, devotional time.

It's a great resource. I think that would bless many people.

Gentlemen, I love getting to work with you and I love getting to do ministry with all of you in God's kingdom.

Have a great twenty twenty six. Let's go. God bless you.