



# On the Same Page

“Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” (Genesis 22:1 NAS95)

## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## Right Where I Need to Be

Sunday, January 14, 2018

When God comes to give you and me instructions, where do we need to be? Front and center, available and attentive. That's what we find in [Abraham's next interaction with God](#). The text tells us God's purpose, to test Abraham. So God calls his name, “Abraham!” Abraham's interaction - his prayer to God - “Here I am,” **right where I need to be.**

In order to arrive at the desired end of a journey, there are many things that must happen first. If it is a road trip as we've grown accustomed to road trips, there needs to be a destination and a route planned; a path chosen, and a vehicle prepared. You estimate the time and the costs. God in His wisdom has planned out our lives, and He had a critical, distinctive purpose laid out for Abraham's life. In fact, [success in the fulfillment of Abraham's journey has much to do with the coming of a Savior and our faith in Him!](#) This testing, or proving of Abraham was an essential part of that journey. It's a good thing Abraham was **right where he needed to be.**

Abraham's journey included a test. Not a test that would provide God with more information. But [a test that would actually develop Abraham in ways that could only be accomplished through the test.](#) And it is excruciating. “Abraham, take your son, your only son, - you know, that son that you love so much - and sacrifice him to me.” Ethical dilemmas abound, but Abraham was to leave it up to God to solve the ethical dilemmas, and prove that he did not place love for son above love for God, that he had not exchanged the worship of the Giver for worship of the gift; that he was not in fact idolizing his son at the expense of properly worshipping the one, true God.

If Abraham had known what God was about to demand, would he still have responded “Here I am”? Would you? Which is why we decide the issue ahead of time - that we will be front and center, available and attentive, at all times, starting now, independent of whether the instruction is comfortable, or impossible.

But the more striking prayer is not the “Here I am” of the hearing (Genesis 22:1). It is rather the “Here I am” of the doing (Genesis 22:11). By this time, Abraham has saddled his donkey, gathered the firewood, taken his son and travelled to Mt. Moriah, built the altar, bound his son, and raised the knife. It is then that God once again calls “Abraham!” He says, “Here I am,” taking his son in his arms, with God firmly fixed in his heart, **right where He needs to be.**

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In five articles (Our Sins, Few Saved?, Conversion, Justification, The Holy Spirit) J.C. Ryle, Anglican pastor from the 1800's, outlines **Steps Towards Heaven**. This quote is from the last article, on the activity of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

**whatever individual Christians have, are, and enjoy, in contradistinction to the worldly and unconverted, they owe to the agency of God the Holy Ghost.**

J.C. Ryle, Steps Towards Heaven, Banner of Truth, 2017, p. 141.  
First published in 1877 under the title "Old Paths."

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## News and Notes

**Prayer Time:** Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

**We get to note some special birthdays in our congregation this week - Fern Wells turning 100; Mary Alice Schick turning 95, and one of our gentlemen turning 75.**

**Ladies Bible Study** meet on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel.

**Awana meets** on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be this Sunday, January 14, 9:45 a.m. There will be children's Sunday School, but the Annual Meeting will occupy the time for Adult Sunday School. Refreshments will be served downstairs between 10:30-11 a.m.

**Men of Action** next meets on Saturday, January 20, 7:30 a.m. **Circle of Grace** next meets on Tuesday evening, February 6.

We would like to invite interested people to join **Milford Baptist's Facebook prayer page** (search 'Milford Prayer') - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

**Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564**

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## **Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**



**This Sunday, January 14** we will introduce our church theme for 2018, linking to our next section in Luke's Gospel on mission - **Courage and Clarity**. We follow Francis Schaeffer's suggestion on **The Mark of the Christian**, and reflect on John 13: 31-35

**Last Sunday, January 7**, we focused on being "Clean Instruments" (2 Timothy 2:20-26) with an emphasis on communication, both what we listen to, and how we speak. [Listen to the message here.](#)

**Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., though this Sunday, January 14, S.S. for children only, due to our 9:45 a.m. Annual Meeting.**