



Scott Turansky, Senior Pastor
July 20, 2014

PROVERBS 4:1-19

Proverbs Series

Turn in your Bibles with me please to Proverbs 4. Proverbs was written by Solomon whose dad's name was David, King David.

I'm sure that if you imagine Solomon growing up you can imagine the stories that were told by his father of things that took place and ways that David experienced God. David was a psalm writer. He had a lot of things in his heart about the Lord, but David was also a warrior and he did a lot of battles. God worked in his life in the midst of that. Many of those stories were passed on to Solomon and he got to hear those stories from his dad. The Bible tells us that David is a *man after God's own heart*. I'm sure that David wanted to pass that heart on to Solomon, and shared a number of things with him along those lines.

Today Solomon is going to pass wisdom on to us in Proverbs 4 and he's going to remember the talk that his father had with him. A talk that probably wasn't just one talk, but a number of talks that his dad passed on to him. Four things are shared in the next couple chapters that are part of this talk. I'm going to share these with you over some time here because I think they're valuable for us as we're trying to listen to what God has to say for us.

Let me just read verses 1-3 and then we'll share a little bit more about that. This is Solomon writing and he says, *Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother.*

In other words, he's referring back to his dad telling him stories. There's a pattern that's established in God's word for values and truths to be passed on to the next generation. That pattern comes through the family. It's God's design that it's the family where these truths are passed on from one generation to another.

The church can be really helpful in that regard, but the church is not the primary source for passing the faith onto the next generation. It is the family that God designed to be that. We're seeing that model here in this passage. It is not the Christian school whose job it is to pass the faith on to kids. Now the church or the school can be support for that and that's great, but they're supporting what God wants to do in the life of those parents and the parents are passing the faith onto those kids.

Verse 3 begins with a personal testimony of the writer – *For I too was a son* in my father's house. Now some kids don't like it or they resist it when their dads say, "Well when I was a

boy...” But I would suggest to you young people you want to listen to your dads, listen to your moms because when you do you might learn some valuable things about life. Here’s a father passing on some very important things to his son that we get to listen to, we get to watch.

I had a great dad and mom. My parents love the Lord and my dad passed the faith on to us as children. I remember my father teaching me about the book of Proverbs and many of things in the book of Proverbs that would help me to understand more about life.

One of the things that I remember is that he said that in the verse, wisdom is *in a multitude of counselors*. I don’t even remember that verse in the book of Proverbs (we’ll come to it), but he’s saying get advice from a lot of people. That was the idea.

So here’s what he taught me. He said when you go to get advice you don’t just say, “Hey, can I do this? Yes or no?” We don’t just listen to the yes or no. What we do is we ask questions behind that and we find that from the person. “Are there any red flags here?” “Are there any fears that you have?”

I remember one time I went to my dad and said, “Mom says I can go do this.” He says, “Wait. Wait a minute. I think you should go back to mom and not ask for a yes or no. I want you to go back to your mom about this thing you want to do and I want you to ask her, ‘Mom, do you have any red flags about this? Do you have any fears about this that you want to share with me?’” I learned something really helpful. I learned to listen to my mom. It wasn’t just about the yeses and nos. It was about getting behind them.

I would encourage you young people to listen to parents by going behind what they say yes or no. Don’t just look for permission; look for counsel. Parents know you whether you like it or not. They know you and they know things about you, so they can offer maybe some really helpful things. So get behind that and listen to that.

They taught me how to listen to advice from other people. Not just a yes or no – get back and listen to what’s going on.

Now not everyone had the privilege of having a father and a mother like I did who were very interested in God’s word, very interested in passing on the faith. In fact maybe you’re saying, “Wow. I missed something here. I was absent on the day they were handing out graciousness” or “I was not listening on the day that they were passing out organizational skills.” I want to suggest that that’s why it’s good for you to be here today. Because God has shared with us those things. If you didn’t have a dad who would teach you about these things about life or somehow didn’t have the courage to or the character to teach you or you didn’t have a dad, it’s great that you’re here because God wants you to understand some important things.

So I want you to listen up today. These are things that will help you in your heart. This is like the make up class. If you missed it, this is the make up class here. Very fun, foundational things that we need that provide for us the *chaya*.

Do you remember that we talked about in Proverbs the word ‘life’ often refers to quality of life, not length of life. And so when he’s talking about life, he’s talking about this word *chaya*, which is this quality of life that God wants us to experience. He’s going to share some things for us here to understand.

Verse 4 – this is Solomon reflecting on the words of his dad. *Then he taught me, and he said to me, “Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live.”*

He’s going to share four things now and we’re going to look at them. The first two we’re going to look at this week and next week we’ll look at the other two in chapters 4 and 5. The fourth one is the sex talk. So if your dad didn’t have a sex talk with you, you’re going to get it from me next week. Not from me, from God’s word as I share with you from God’s word next week. So be here. You know somebody else who needs the sex talk? Get them here because I’m going to share just honestly with you from God’s word what God has to say about this very important subject.

But today we’re going to look at two other truths that I want you to see that are very important. This is what he’s saying to his son. He’s saying to his son, “Listen. We’ve got to have a talk here. I want to share with you some things that are very important for your life. Number one, here’s what I want you to understand. I want you in your life to develop a listening and learning attitude, especially when it comes to God’s wisdom and understanding.”

As you know already, when we’re talking about wisdom we’re not just talking about good ideas. We’re talking about tying into the principles of the universe that God put into creation when He designed it, these principles that make relationships successful. You having trouble in a relationship? It’s the wisdom of God that you need. You have trouble at work? This is the wisdom that you need. Continually we’re looking for ways to develop that inside of our hearts.

So let me read verse 5 and following. I’ll just read to verse 9 and make some comments there.

Proverbs 4:5 – *Get wisdom, get understanding.* Now this is a father talking to his son. Feel the passion that he’s saying. *Get wisdom, get understanding, do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you* (the idea is he’s going to personify wisdom as this woman who invites you to a great banquet); *love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this.* Look at your Bible there. *The beginning of wisdom is this:* (what is it?) *Get wisdom.* Isn’t that an interesting statement. Here’s the beginning of wisdom: want it; get it.

Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.”

The first truth he’s saying is develop a listening and a learning attitude about this wisdom that God wants you to have. Develop that in your heart. This father tells his son to treat wisdom like you would a wife. Love her. Honor her. Embrace her. Exalt her. That bumper sticker that says

“have you hugged your child today,” maybe we should rewrite it – “have you hugged wisdom today.” In other words, value it. It’s important.

He’s personifying here so you can get this picture. You want to be friends with this person, if it were a person. You want to have this person close to you. You want to love this person. That’s what he’s saying. Because the one you love is the one who controls your life. Embrace wisdom and you will have security and honor. Wisdom gives these blessings to people who grab onto it. So if you’re looking for direction in your life, pursue wisdom.

Verse 7: *Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

Have you been knocked down in life? Or time and time again been knocked down and you feel like you’ve been battered and knocked down? Then get up and push forward. Don’t give up. Refuse to quit. You need wisdom to face the challenge. You need wisdom and that inner strength to face the day. Your opponent in some cases is life itself and God wants you to win.

Love wisdom. Verse 8 says *she will exalt you.* Verse 9: *She will present you with a glorious crown.*”

Are you having trouble in life? Maybe it’s time to make some changes. Pour your heart and life into wisdom. That’s the cry of this father and I believe the cry of our heavenly Father for us. God wants you to be victorious. He wants you to enjoy the benefits of the victory-filled life. This is practical. It’s real. It’s relevant. Get it. Don’t lose it. Feel the passion.

Dad’s saying this to his son. Son, this is really important. Stay on this. This is helpful. The world is a nasty place. I don’t care who you are. If you don’t have wisdom, this world’s going to beat you down to your knees and it’s going to keep you there permanently. Winners aren’t those who never get hit. Winners are those who get hit and then get back up again.

The question is, when you get back up will you go back to the same mistakes and patterns and problems? Or will you rise above this time by pursuing wisdom as God outlines that wisdom in His word. Not just a good idea. We’re not just looking for better ideas that are better than the last ones; we’re looking to tie into the wisdom of the universe, the wisdom of God as He has placed it in the universe. We’re not just talking about better ideas, we’re talking about better theology. We’re trying to understand what God would have for us because God is the one who makes the impossible possible and He delights in doing that in our lives.

Verse 10: *Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.*

The idea is your path is going to be straight instead of going around in all kinds of places. Contrast the straight path with a detour.

See, when you’re obeying the Lord you’re on the straight path. If you disobey the Lord then God will take you on a detour. Now detours aren’t always bad because it’s in the detours where you learn important things. Get the most out of the detour if you’re on one. So if you’re on some kind

of a detour in your life, as you're coming back to the straight path make sure you learn what you need on the detour.

Remember the Israelites had to go on a detour for forty years. That's a long detour. Because God brought them to the Promised Land ready to bring them into all the magnificence of this land flowing with milk and honey, but they were not able to go in because they listened to the ten spies who said, "We can't do this. We're like grasshoppers in their sight." And so they did not have enough faith to go forward.

So what did God do? God says, "Okay guys. I'm going to take you on a forty-year journey where you can develop the faith in your life. And you're going to learn how to rely on me. You're going to follow me by the cloud during the day and the pillar of fire by night. I'm going to take you through the wilderness and I'm going to feed you with manna every day. I'm going to provide you with water to drink. Your shoes are not going to wear out." For forty years they went through this detour.

God used the detour in their lives to build into them the trust they needed to face the Jordan River. They're going to come to the Jordan River again and this time when they get there they're ready to go in because now they know the God who has provided for us will protect us as we move forward. They understood what that meant and they were ready to move forward into that.

Another person who had to go on a detour, a much shorter one (and I hope the detours in my life don't last forty years, but for some people they do) – Jonah had a detour of three days. God says, "Jonah, I want you to obey me and go this direction." Jonah says, "No. I'm not going to do that," and he goes the other direction, gets on a boat. God says, "I'm going to have to do something for this guy. He's going to have to take a detour. I'm going to have to have him sit for a little bit and think about this," because he's done the wrong thing and he just needs some time away to consider his ways. So God says, "Where am I going to have him sit? I'm going to have him sit in this fish." God created a special fish just for Jonah and so Jonah's thrown overboard, gets in this fish for three days, and it's amazing how God changes heart.

I hope it doesn't take you three days to change your heart, doesn't take me three days to change my heart. I want to change my heart right away. I don't want to have the long detours in my life.

The beautiful part of Jonah is Jonah 3:1 after he gets thrown up and washes himself, I suppose, and gets on the shore, *the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time saying, "Get up. Go to Nineveh."* Aren't you glad the Lord comes back a second time and a third time? That's what God does.

He says there's a straight path. Do you see the verse there? There's a straight path that we can be on. You want to be on the straight path? Not the one that goes up and down that's hard or the one that goes back and forth, but just a straight path. That's the obedience of God.

So the writer of the Proverbs here is saying to us, "Listen." Have a listening attitude about God's wisdom. Have a learning attitude because when you're listening and learning you're receptive to what God wants to do in your heart. He has some great things he wants to do.

In verse 12 he continues by saying about this straight path – *When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life (chaya).*

It is this quality of life that God wants you to have. Hang in there. Do it. Stay on that path that God would have for you. Don't rely on the detours. Stay on that straight path. The first thing that Solomon is saying is you need to have this learning attitude, this listening attitude to the wisdom of God. So if you were absent on the day that message rang out, you're getting it now. Amen?

Alright. Let's go to principle number 2. Principle number two is to stay away from the wrong crowd. I'm going to read the verses and then we'll talk about what this means and try to understand it for our lives.

Verse 14 says, *Do not set foot on the path of the wicked.*

Here's a dad talking to his son. Son, I want to tell you some things that are really important for your life. I've chosen four and I just want you to understand what they are. Number one, seek wisdom with all your heart or have a learning and a responsive attitude toward God in that.

Number two, *do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it.* Are you getting the point here? He's amplifying it. He says don't set foot on the wrong path. Don't walk in the way of these people. *Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. For they cannot rest until they do evil; they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble. They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.*

Here's the contrast. Look at verse 18. The contrast between the wicked person and the righteous is often seen throughout the book of Proverbs. We're going to see the number of times there's this contrast between the wicked and the righteous. We see it here. Verse 18: *The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.*

There's a verse in the New Testament that reminds me of this idea of be careful who you hang around with. Be careful of the bad guys. Be careful of the way of the wicked. It's this verse in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that says, *"Bad company corrupts good character."*

When you hang around with the bad company, even though you have good character, it can be distorted, it can be damaged. It corrupts it. It damages it. I would suggest that if Solomon were writing this today, he would say not just the physical people that you hang around with, that kind of company, but even the electronic company you hang around with. Because if you're hanging around with electronic company that's dragging you down or is on the wicked side or is moving you in the wrong direction, it's going to affect you in ways that are not helpful. Stay away from the wrong crowd. Don't get yourself sucked in to those kind of problems.

So what is this wicked person? Because I think some people think, "I never get close to the wicked person. That's like the person with horns on and so on." No. I want to just take you on a

little tour of the book of Proverbs and show you what the wicked person does. I'm sure this will bring people to your mind as I read these things.

Chapter 9:7 – when you try to correct this person, you incur abuse from them. Wow.

Chapter 11:18 – this person cheats in business. Hmm.

Chapter 21:4 – the wicked person is arrogant.

Chapter 21:7 – the wicked person refuses to do what's right. The wicked person promotes evil. "Come on, do this with me." Tries to get away with doing the wrong thing and sometimes they are successful at getting away with it, at least it seems.

But I want to show you something that happens inside of the heart of a person who's chosen to do the wrong thing. We don't want to hang around with the wrong people. We want to do what's right. But the person who's wicked on the inside, who has this bent toward going the wrong direction has a problem.

As I read the things about the wicked I see myself there sometimes and I go, "Whoa." Sometimes I act wickedly. I act like the wicked person. I don't want to hang around those people. I don't want it in my life. I want to be able to deal with that.

There's a verse in Proverbs 28:1 that talks about the wicked person. It says this: *The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.*

Let me tell you about Bill. Bill was seven years old and he started enjoying being mischievous. He kind of enjoyed getting into trouble. When he was eleven he started just getting himself into trouble. He stole candy from the store.

Here's where the verse started making an impact. Not on him. He never paid attention to the verse. But this is where you see it. He stole some things from the store and then whenever he was back in the store, he always wondered, "Is someone going to catch me?" He felt guilty just being in the store because *the wicked flee though no one pursues*. There's no one pursuing him, but he feels like that. I'm guilty. I've got to be careful. I've got to watch out what I'm doing.

As a teenager he started stealing bicycles off the front lawn and tools out of garages that were open. He sold some of those things, but the money didn't do any good. All the time he was looking over his shoulder for fear that he might get caught. Wow. There it is again. *The wicked flee though no one pursues*. Huh.

As an adult he went to jail for selling drugs. When he got out he always had an uncomfortable feeling whenever he saw a policeman. Even when they weren't after him. Even when he hadn't done anything new wrong. Why? Because *the wicked flee though no one pursues*. Why do they flee? Because they have this guilty conscience or this fear of life that they're going to be in trouble, somebody's going to catch them. They are in a lot of hot water, so there's this wickedness.

The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion. There's this confidence that you have. No one's going to bother the lion. I can walk around in daylight. Nobody's going to hurt me. That's what that Proverbs is describing.

My dad told me a story once as we were growing up about how he was in grad school and each one of the grad students had a responsibility to teach on that day and then offer a test. The test would be graded and that would be part of the grade for every person.

One of the guys in the class got together with some of the others and they decided that when they each made their own test they would give out the answers to the others in the class so everybody could do well on the test. It was a way for them to all collaborate together. My dad knew that was wrong, so my dad said no, he didn't want to be a part of that. They were mad at him because when he did his part and did his test they didn't like it because they didn't have the answers. And so they mistreated him. They berated him.

But what happened, my dad said, was the reward he got was at the end of the class. He didn't get an A like many of the others got an A. He got a B in that class. But he was talking to one of the other students, one of the cheaters afterwards and my dad said, "Yeah, I got a B in the class." And the cheater said to my dad, "You know what, you can look at that B out here; I have to look at my A back here." Wow.

Stay on the right path. Do the right thing. Don't hang around with the wicked people. That is what he's talking about here when he's talking about the wicked person. Be careful of that wicked person. They'll lead you astray.

Let's talk about the righteous person because I think this is what we want. We want to be righteous. We want to do the right thing. What is that going to look like in some practical ways in our lives?

Well, Proverbs has a lot to say about the right person. For example in Proverbs 8:20 it says, *I walk in the way of righteousness along the paths of justice.* But how do you do that?

I think when we come into the New Testament we have a greater understanding of this righteousness and what it's going to be in our lives. So I want to take you to some verses in the New Testament just to illustrate what righteousness can be for you.

Let me take you to a common verse. A common verse that I've memorized; maybe you've memorized this too. It's the verse in Matthew 6:33 which says, *But seek first the kingdom of God (do you see the next verses?) and his righteousness. Seek the righteousness of God and all these things will be given to you as well.*

If you read the rest of the passage, it talks about a loving heavenly Father who cares for you, about what you're going to wear and what you're going to eat. You get worried about those things? Material things. You get worried about if you're going to have everything that you need

or you're going to have enough? Because when you're worried about those things, you just need to trust the Lord. And that's when we come to this verse.

It says to *seek first his kingdom and his righteousness*. Seek the righteousness of God first, and when you do that then *all these things* – now used things is a placeholder in your life. What are the things that drive you crazy, that cause you to get worried about life? I don't know what that is. Job security, whether you'll have what you need, there's going to be some danger in our world. Whatever it might be, whatever the thing is that bothers you, you can get over that or not have to deal with it because you're seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Seeking that righteousness, seeking the kingdom of God.

How do you get it? I'm going to take you to another passage. This passage is in Romans 10:9-10 which talks about how a person gets saved. So if you're here today and you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you can look at this verse. This will help you know how to accept Jesus Christ into your life.

What does it mean to get saved? *If you confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord,"* (so you're saying, "Yes. Jesus is my Lord") *and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

There it is right there. So if you've not trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you don't believe in your heart, this is the time for you to do that. Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Lord and your Savior and you will be saved.

Now read the rest of the verse there in verse 10. It says, *For it is with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness. Wow. This righteousness comes to us because we have this faith as a basis. Righteousness coming through faith, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

That's pretty significant. There's a key there. You're not going to be able to obtain righteousness on your own. You need the power of Jesus Christ inside of you to produce that righteousness. It happens on the inside first and God does some amazing things there. When people accept the righteousness of God it changes their behavior outside. So it starts on the inside and moves outside in their lives.

I worked with a man who was addicted to pornography. How did he get deliverance from that? It came because of the work of God in his life. It starts in the heart. He's now free because of Christ's righteousness at work in him. It's a righteousness that has faith as the basis.

So you can do all kinds of good things. You can give money to the poor, you can fast, you can attend a church, you can be kind to your neighbor. But if it doesn't come from faith then it is lacking.

In fact it's interesting. The Bible says that our works, our righteousness is *like filthy rags* in his sight. Why? Because it needs to come from faith. When it comes from faith God turns it into something that's great.

So first we want to have Jesus Christ living in our lives and He empowers us, and the righteousness of God then starts to come out and we rely on that righteousness. That is powerful.

One more verse I want to share with you from Romans. Because if we study the book of Romans we're going to see more about salvation, theology, what it does when we get saved. All of those things.

In Romans 5:17 I want you to see what it says because this mimics what we're reading in the book of Proverbs. In Romans 5:17 it says, *For if, by the trespass of the one man* (that's the original Adam), *death reigned through that one man* (that is, we all became sinners, we all have a sin nature because Adam sinned), *how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace* (that word *grace* is so important) *and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

See when we experience this grace, that is the gift of God inside of our heart, we have this righteousness inside and that enables us to reign in life. God wants you to reign today. He wants you to reign in life.

It's the same idea as in the Old Testament, built into this word *chaya*. The quality of life that God wants you to enjoy comes from this inner something that's going on in your heart. That is the work of Jesus Christ inside. Powerful. It's amazing.

Back to the Proverbs. He says don't hang out with the wrong crowd. We need fellowship of other believers to encourage us to do what's right.

If we go to the Sermon on the Mount I want you to see that in the Sermon on the Mount He talks about this idea of righteousness. When He's giving all the Beatitudes, He uses the word 'righteousness' twice in the Beatitudes.

The first one in verse 6 are *blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled*. Just like in what Solomon is telling his son. Hunger and thirst for it. Want it. Desire it. Jesus is saying the same thing. When you hunger for it and you go after it then you're going to feel that satisfaction, that fullness of the inside.

But then verse 10 – you've just got to know this. I want to warn you ahead of time that this is going to happen. *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

When you do the right thing, you've got to know you're not going to be accepted with other people. Other people are going to laugh at you. They're going to think you're silly. They're going to ridicule you. They're not going to include you in some other things that they're doing. It's going to be a persecution that comes on you because you are doing the right thing. So just be warned that this righteous path, although a straight path, often is a path that is persecuted by other people.

So we go back now to Proverbs and he's saying stay on this straight path. Do the right thing.

Go back to verse 18 in Proverbs 4 because it says this: *The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*

What that means is that it's dark and the sun starts to come out. In your life you're feeling like, "Man, it's so dark here. I just want to do the right thing. I'm going to take a step on the path to do what's right." It's like the sun starts to come up just a little bit so you can't see everything, but the more you walk on the right path the sun gets brighter and brighter and it's like the full light of day. It's just a beautiful thing that happens inside of you.

I would challenge you today to walk on that right path that God has designed for you. Because of His grace in your life, you're not doing it on your own, but you're doing it because of God's work in you. When you walk on that path more and more this is going to become obvious. You're going to know, "Yes, this is the right thing to do. Yes, this is the direction I need to go." God will bless you in some amazing ways.

Wow. That is just two of the things that are part of this important talk that Solomon wants to have with his son. But it's important for us to recognize that the righteousness that we have that God wants us to pursue doesn't come on our own merit, it comes because of the grace of God. God's grace is enough. It's sufficient. That sufficient grace means that we have what we need to meet each day.

I sometimes refer to grace as energy that God provides in order to manage the day. So if you're downtrodden, you're discouraged, you don't feel like you have the strength to carry on, you need grace. And that grace comes from God Himself. Not by will power – "I'm going to do this;" it comes from God's grace. That grace becomes this powerful thing inside of us, a gift of God that enables us to live the life He's called us to live.

Good stuff. It's powerful. Next week some more. We'll continue on in this passage and go into the next chapter. I'd encourage you to read ahead. I'd encourage you to read the whole book of Proverbs. As you do, you'll learn a lot about what God has for us and what He wants for us in this area of wisdom. Not just good ideas, but tying into the life principles that God has ordained His world to be a part of.

Would you stand with me? Let's sing a song about God's grace and how important it is in our lives.

If, by the way, as we're singing this song the Lord is speaking to you in a particular area of your heart and you'd like some prayer, would you just slip out over here and pray with one of the prayer counselors. They'll share with you and pray with you and you'll be able to rely on their faith in the midst of this. If you've never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, slip out as we sing this song. Okay?

[PRAYER] Heavenly Father, we ask for your grace to work in our hearts right in this moment. As we worship you, we ask you to connect with our hearts in ways that will propel us forward so

we will be able to take the truths here home with us so that we're not leaving Jesus here at church. We're taking Him home and we're applying those truths into our lives. Lord, we're asking you to touch us now as we sing this song to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Let's worship.