

The Nephilim -  
Not Your Problem  
Genesis 6:1-4

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June 12, 2016

# What will we learn?

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- ❖ The Gospel = not a Bible quiz
- ❖ God-dependence > self-reliance
- ❖ God's power > human strength

# One story:

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- ❖ Paradise (Genesis 1-2)
- ❖ Paradise Lost (Genesis 3 – Revelation 20)
- ❖ Paradise Regained (Revelation 21-22)

# Genesis 1-11

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- ❖ Creation (1)
- ❖ Creation (2)
- ❖ Fall (3)
- ❖ Cain and Abel (4)
- ❖ Genealogy (5)
- ❖ Flood (6-9)
- ❖ Genealogy (10)
- ❖ Tower of Babel (11)

# Genesis 1 application:

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- ❖ God created.
- ❖ His creation is good.
- ❖ His creation reflects his glory.
- ❖ Jesus reconciles us to God.
- ❖ We are to worship God and reflect his glory.

# Genesis 2:1-15 application:

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- ❖ Work is not bad.
- ❖ Work is not everything.
- ❖ Work is a gift from God.
- ❖ Work is an opportunity to worship God.
- ❖ We need rest.
- ❖ Jesus gives us ultimate rest.

# Genesis 2:15-25

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- ❖ We need relationships.
  - ❖ With God
  - ❖ With people
    - ❖ Like us
    - ❖ Different from us
- ❖ Jesus took our shame so we can be unashamed.

# Lies of the Deceiver:

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- ❖ You can be the judge.
- ❖ You cannot trust the goodness of God.
- ❖ You can save yourself.



# Bad News ...

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- ❖ Our common disease = sin/evil
  - ❖ Alienation from God
  - ❖ Alienation from ourselves/shame
  - ❖ Alienation from each other
  - ❖ Struggle with nature

## ... Good News

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- ❖ The healer king is coming.
- ❖ We are his ambassadors.



# The Gospel:

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- ❖ Sin separates us from God.
- ❖ How will you cope?
  - ❖ Turn to God, and he will cover you.
  - ❖ Hide from God, and life will destroy your fig leaves.

# Reality of Life

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## ❖ Sin

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to consume
- ❖ Subtle

## ❖ Grace

- ❖ Ever-present
- ❖ Seeks to counsel and restore
- ❖ Subtle

# Cain's descendants (4:16-24)

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- ❖ Enoch
- ❖ Irad
- ❖ Mehujael
- ❖ Methushael
- ❖ Lamech
- ❖ Jabal
- ❖ Jubal
- ❖ Tubal-cain

# Lamech, the murderer

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- ❖ Jabał, the father of those who dwell in tents and have cattle
- ❖ Jubał, the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe
- ❖ Tubal-cain, the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron

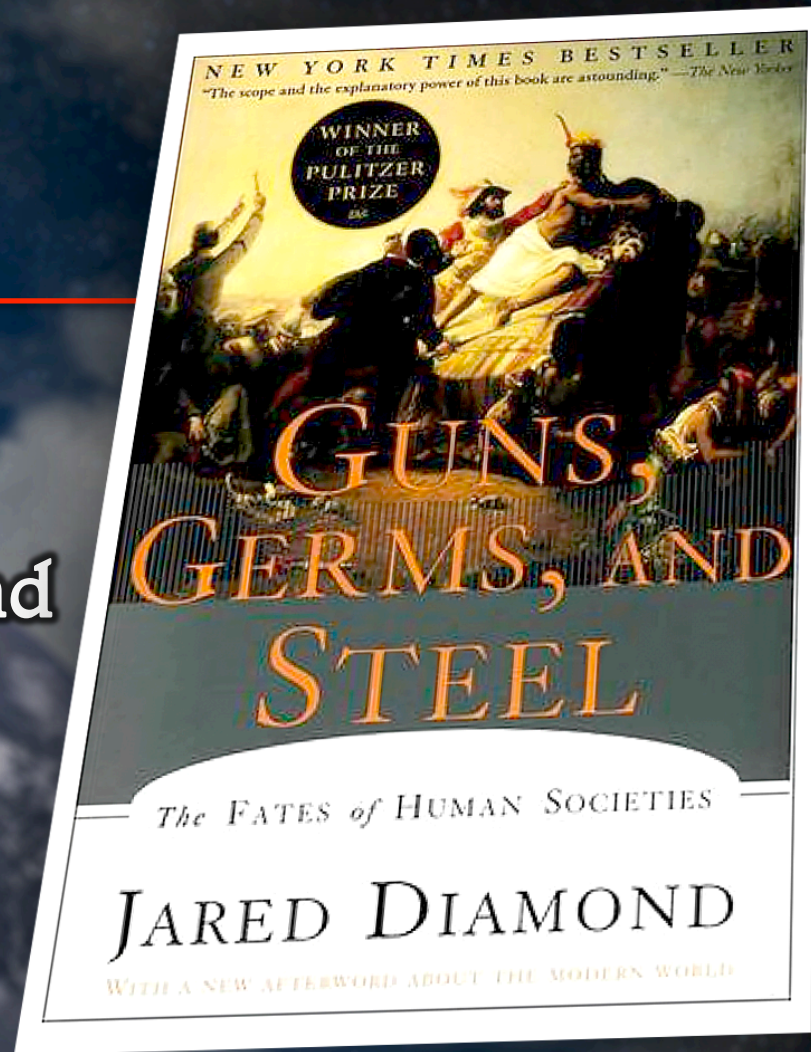
# Tales of Two Cities:

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- ❖ Cain's descendants vs. Seth's descendants
- ❖ Wandering shepherds vs. city dwellers
- ❖ Augustine: City of God vs. Rome
- ❖ Thomas Jefferson: farmers vs. industrialists
- ❖ Country mouse vs. city mouse

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*Guns, Germs  
and Steel —*  
by Jared Diamond





# Seth's descendants (5:1-32)

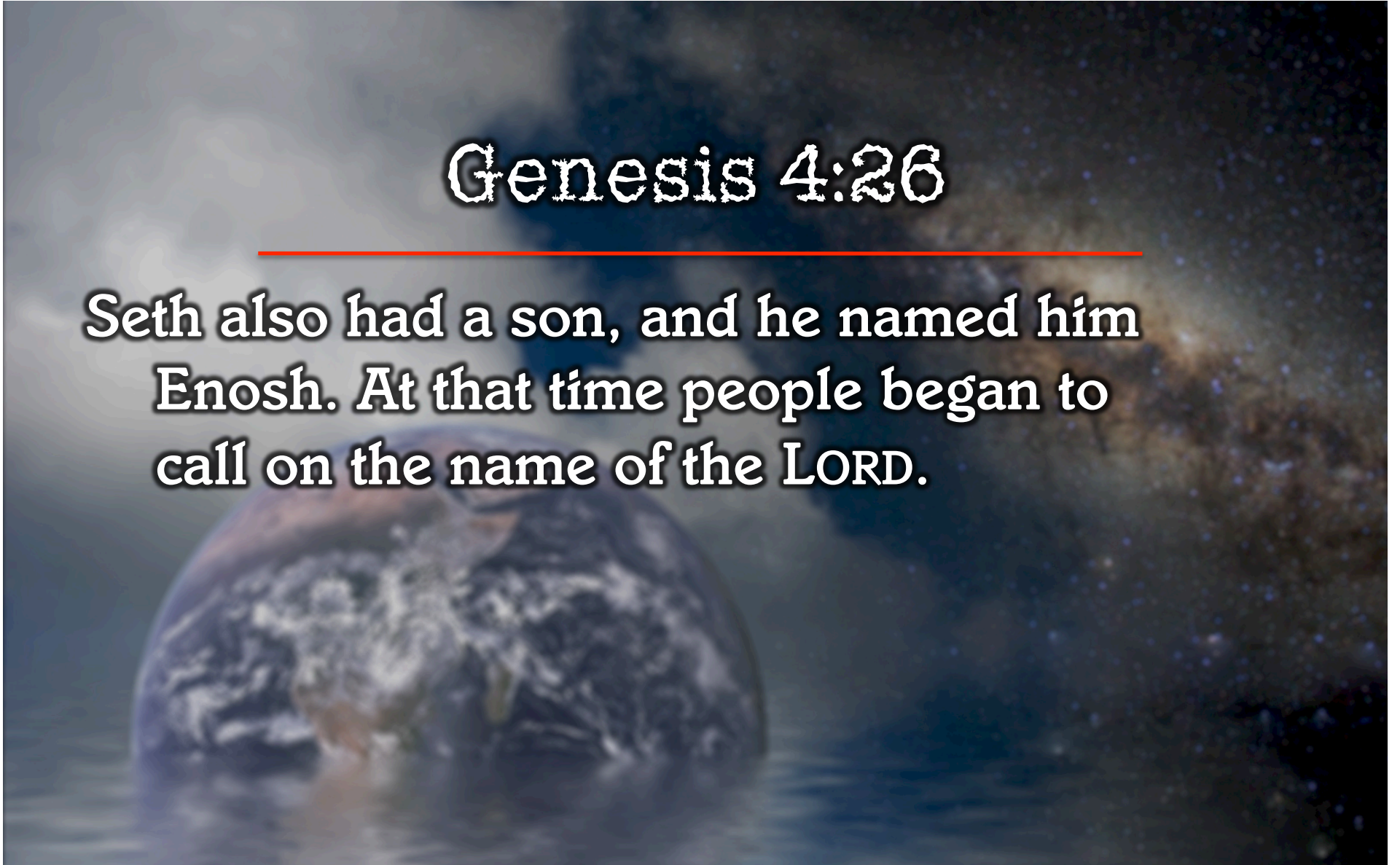
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- ❖ Enosh
- ❖ Kenan
- ❖ Mahalalel
- ❖ Jared
- ❖ Enoch
- ❖ Methuselah
- ❖ Lamech
- ❖ Noah

## Genesis 4:26

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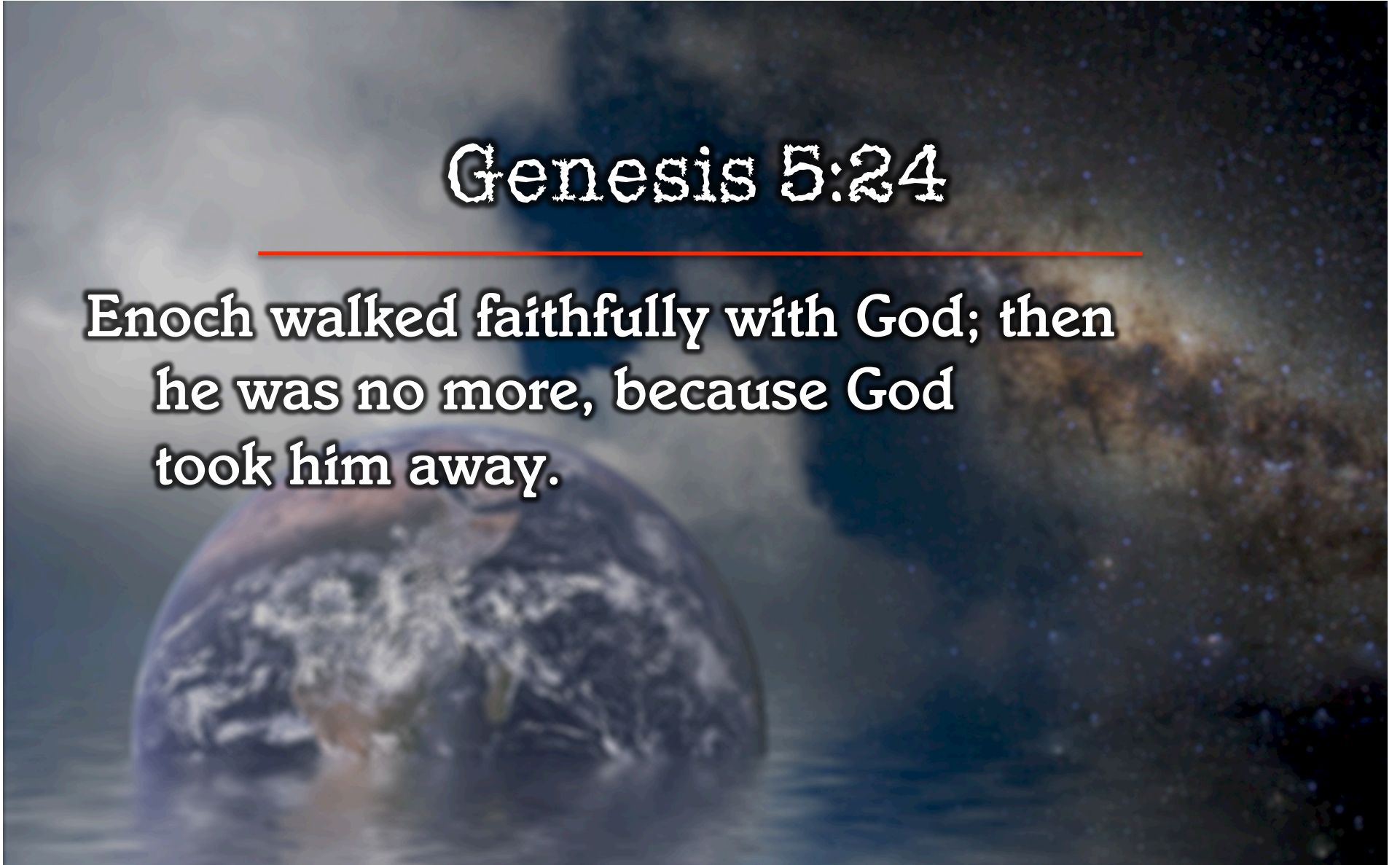
Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.



# Genesis 5:24

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**Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.**



# 1 Peter 4:13

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But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

## Genesis 6:1-2

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When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

## Genesis 6:3

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Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

## Genesis 6:4

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The Nephilim were on the earth in those days — and also afterward — when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

## Numbers 13:33

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[The men who went up with Caleb]:

“We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”



# The Nephilim?

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- ❖ Offspring of fallen angels and earthly women (Clement of Alexandria)
- ❖ Offspring of sons of Seth and daughters of Cain (Ephrem the Syrian)
- ❖ Descendants of Seth who chose Cain's way (Augustine)

# **“Winning” in the ANE:**

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- ❖ **First-born**
- ❖ **Male**
- ❖ **Wealthy**
- ❖ **Big and strong**

# 1 Corinthians 1:27

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**But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.**



# What have we learned?

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- ❖ The Gospel = not a Bible quiz
- ❖ God-dependence > self-reliance
- ❖ God's power > human strength



# Are you being called?

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- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper