



# WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD!

---

Museums boast display after display that transport you back in time. You can lose yourself in the wonder of the history that has gone before you. Tyrannosaurus Rex bones and the Wright Brother's first plane. Lewis and Clark's compass and Dorothy's red slippers from "The Wizard of Oz." The desk where Thomas Jefferson drafted "The Declaration of Independence" and our first automobiles. Each exhibit convincingly memorializes an achievement, a discovery, a marvel or a wonder. It demands your attention with tangible evidence as if to say, "This *really* happened!"

Museums inspire us because they remind us where we've come from. But unlike "Night at the Museum," none of the exhibits come alive at night — or ever — to solve world problems. They are merely celebrations of the past. If you want to see *life* and movement, you don't go to a museum. You go instead to a laboratory that's making new advances you never dreamed were possible. You go to a zoo, bursting with the colors and sounds of all the animals. You go to a school, teeming with laughing children on a playground. You go to a hospital and marvel at the wonder of a newborn.

Listen and receive this deeply. The Church isn't called to be a museum. It's called to be a laboratory, a zoo, a school, a hospital. It isn't the place we gather to simply study and admire the miraculous moves of God that *used to* happen. We are the church of the *living* God! The same God who performed every miracle since creation lives within us and is still on the throne as the Author of our faith and of his Church. Our best days are yet ahead. All of the power, presence, miracles and transformation that fill the pages of the Bible are still for us today. We cannot afford to merely be students of the museums of the past while our Father is presently stirring his Spirit into creation to make new advances you never dreamed were possible. You don't need to merely marvel at yesterday's spiritual museums. Come into the presence of your *living* God. He has a lot he desires to do in and through you today!

"You will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is *the church of the living God*, the pillar and foundation of the truth" 1 Timothy 3:15 – Emphasis added.

"But you have come to Mount Zion, to the *city of the living God*, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven" Hebrews 12:22-23 – Emphasis added.

## QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. *Do you expect God to work in a living and miraculous way through you? Why or why not? Ask God to bring to mind occasions when he spoke to you or worked through your life in a powerful or miraculous way. What are they?*

2. Read Hebrews 12:18-29. This takes place just after the famous chapter highlighting all of the past heroes of our faith and challenges us to recognize that we are living in the days they longed for and proclaimed. How does this passage change your expectation of how God wants to use you today?
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you step actively into his present work of healing, restoration and transformation!

### WORSHIP RESOURCE:

*“I can hear you in the thunder. I can feel you take me under.  
I can see you in the rain, when you call my name!”*

Listen to “Thunder” by The Overflow. Find more info about their album at the back of the devotional.

### PRAYER:

*Father, thank you that we can worship you as the ever-living, ever-present I AM. Thank you that you have not changed and are still the same compassionate, miracle-working Almighty God. As I look at the heroes of faith who have gone before me, I refuse to develop a “museum” mindset. I choose to step into **life** with you, believing that what you did through them, you also long to do through me. I believe this and even greater things because you have promised it. Help me to trust you and your heart. Raise my expectation of what you can do through me.*

### LISTENING TIME:

*Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.*

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING

---



---



---



---



---



### TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Ask everyone to name miracles God has done in the past. Think about the Bible, creation, stories from history and your own lives and list what comes to mind. Read Hebrews 13:8 and ask, “Where have we seen God move miraculously in our lives? Where do we need to see God move *today*?” Pray together into this as a family.

### TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray boldly for God to move miraculously in a specific situation in a friend’s life.