



# NEW

## Breakthrough Prayer

*Dear God, fill us with Your wisdom and courage as we seek Your will for Oak Grove UMC. Empower us to follow You in serving our families, our church, our community, and our world. Help us be aware of what You are trying to do with us and through us so that we may grow Your kingdom. Amen.*

## John 13: 33- 35 (NIV)

**“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

## The Visible Sign

“Through the centuries humans have displayed many different symbols to show they are Christians. They have worn marks in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing wrong with any of this, if one feels it is their calling. But there is a much better sign... it is a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church till Jesus comes back. At the close of his ministry, Jesus looks forward to his death on the cross, the open tomb, and the ascension. Knowing that he is about to leave, Jesus prepares his disciples for what is to come. It is here that he makes clear what will be the distinguishing mark of the Christian. This passage reveals the mark that Jesus gives to label a Christian not just in one era or in one locality but at all times and in all places until Jesus returns.”

*- Excerpt from The Mark of the Christian, by Francis Schaeffer*

## Reflection

What speaks to you from either the reading or the Scripture passage?

What does it mean to love one another like Jesus?

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## WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS?

- To help us center our minds, meetings, and gatherings on our God

## HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

- At the beginning of each gathering, pass out a devotional to each member of the group
- Start by reading the Breakthrough Prayer out loud together
- Invite everyone to either 1) everyone silently reads the Scripture and devotional paragraph or 2) have a person read them out loud
- Take time for silent reflection and then discuss the reflection questions
- Then move on with your agenda/study