

Devotional Guide

April 13-18, 2026



Hazards Ahead

Make Jesus' mission your north star

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

The message explores how Jesus followers face real hazards that threaten to pull us out of alignment with God, with each other, and with the life we were made to live. The sermon pointed out that hazards are normal—not detours but the pathway to deeper alignment. Five common hazards are unpacked: complacency and drift, distractions of worries and wealth, difficulties of trials and temptation, spiritual attack, and prideful isolation. Best of all, listeners discover six practical strategies that empower us when we make Jesus' mission our north star. This truth challenges us to ask daily, "How does my life advance Jesus' mission today?" and to lead more people home to Jesus.

How to Use This Guide:

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

Day 1: Hazards Are Normal

Bible Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:2-3

The sermon opened with a BWCA canoe trip gone wrong—three extra tiring hours because there was no compass. That detour mirrors the wilderness every Jesus follower enters.

The big idea reminds us: Making Jesus' mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus. Hazards aren't proof God failed us; they're the pathway to deeper alignment. Like Jesus after baptism or Israel after the Red Sea, testing refines us. In daily life, expect the wilderness instead of demanding smooth sailing. When we embrace this, even difficulties become holy ground.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Hebrews 12:1-2 teach about the race we run?
2. Where have you recently felt "in the wilderness"?
3. How does knowing hazards are normal change your perspective?
4. What small complaint have you made about your current season?
5. How does the big idea bring hope here?

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank You that the wilderness is part of Your plan. Help me run with endurance, looking to Jesus. Strengthen me when hazards feel heavy. Amen.

Action Step:

Write out Hebrews 12:1-2 and place it where you'll see it daily this week.

Day 2: Hazards Exposed by Mission

Bible Reading: Hebrews 2:1; Matthew 28:18-20

Drifting happens quietly when leading others to Jesus stops being our priority. The sermon showed how the five hazards stay hidden until Jesus' mission becomes our north star. That daily compass question, "How will this day advance Jesus?" lights up the path.

The big idea—Making Jesus' mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus—shifts everything. In real life, busyness or routine can quietly pull us off course. Today, let mission expose what's drifting and realign your heart.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Hebrews 2:1 warn us about drifting?
2. When has mission slipped behind other priorities in your week?
3. How does Matthew 28:18-20 redefine your daily purpose?
4. Which hazard feels most hidden in your life right now?
5. How will the big idea guide you today?

Prayer Prompt: Father, expose any quiet drift in my heart. Make Jesus' mission my north star. Give me courage to ask the daily question. Amen.

Action Step: Ask the daily mission question out loud three times today and journal one answer.

Day 3: Overcoming Complacency & Distractions

Bible Reading: Hebrews 2:1; Matthew 13:22

Complacency whispers “You’ve arrived” while distractions of worries and wealth choke the word. The sermon called these silent killers. Yet when mission is our north star, we stay alert and fruitful.

The big idea—Making Jesus’ mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus—gives us power to push past both. In daily life, a packed schedule or scrolling can quietly replace investing in people who need Jesus. Anchor in the Word and watch complacency lose its grip.

Reflection Questions:

1. What warning does Hebrews 2:1 give about drifting?
2. Which distraction (worries or wealth) feels strongest right now?
3. How can mission make the Word come alive for you?
4. Who is one person you could invest in this week?
5. How does the big idea free you from complacency?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, forgive my complacency. Remove distractions that choke Your word. Help me pay careful attention and stay on mission. Amen.

Action Step: Replace 15 minutes of scrolling today with reading Matthew 28:18-20 and praying for one person who needs Jesus.

Day 4: Facing Difficulties & Spiritual Attack

Bible Reading: James 1:2-3, 12; Ephesians 6:12

Trials, temptations, and unseen spiritual forces fight hardest when we advance God's kingdom. The sermon reminded us these are normal but not ultimate. Putting on the full armor of God and fixing eyes on Jesus turns difficulties into maturity.

The big idea—Making Jesus' mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus—gives us victory. In real life, anxiety or opposition can tempt us to quit. Today, stand firm and count it joy.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does James 1:2-3 say trials produce?
2. Where are you facing difficulty or opposition right now?
3. How does Ephesians 6:12 change how you view your struggles?
4. Which piece of God's armor do you need most today?
5. How does the big idea fuel steadfastness?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, thank You for the armor You provide.

Strengthen me in trials and protect me from attack. Keep my eyes on Jesus. Amen.

Action Step: Pray through one piece of the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and share the big idea with one person today.

Day 5: Defeating Pride & Isolation

Bible Reading: James 1:2-3, 12; Ephesians 6:12

Pride whispers “I can do this alone,” but isolation cuts us off from wise counsel and mission community. The sermon showed we were never meant to journey solo. Engaging genuine, mission-focused community is one of the six strategies that empowers us.

The big idea—Making Jesus’ mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus—thrives in relationship. In daily life, leaning on “my way” feels safe until it leaves us stuck. Today, reach out and lean in.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Proverbs 18:1 reveal about isolation?
2. Where have you been tempted to go it alone lately?
3. How does mission-focused community change everything?
4. Who is one person you could invite into your journey?
5. How does the big idea pull you toward community?

Prayer Prompt: Father, forgive my pride and isolation. Draw me into mission community. Help me encourage others and receive encouragement. Amen.

Action Step: Text or call one trusted friend and share one hazard you’re facing; pray together.

Day 6: Living Centered on the Mission

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 12:1-2

Review the week: from normal hazards to six empowering strategies. The big idea—Making Jesus’ mission our north star empowers us to overcome hazards and lead more people home to Jesus—calls us to make one daily question our compass: “How does my life advance Jesus’ mission today?”

God has sent us into the wilderness to find those who need their true home in Jesus. Ongoing challenge: keep asking, keep inviting, keep running the race with eyes fixed on Him. Celebrate—your life is part of something eternal.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Matthew 28:18-20 mean for your everyday life?
2. Which strategy or hazard stood out most this week?
3. How has the big idea shifted your perspective?
4. Where will you apply the daily mission question this coming week?
5. Who needs to hear about Jesus’ invitation this week?

Prayer Prompt: Loving Father, thank You for making Jesus’ mission my north star. Help me overcome every hazard and lead others home. Use me for Your glory. Amen.

Action Step: Write the daily question on your mirror or phone lock screen. Tell one person about Jesus this week and review this guide next Sunday



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