

ABUNDANT LIFE

You Were Made for More

"You were made for more." I longed to hear those words as a teenager. I longed to hear that my life mattered, that I had purpose, and that I was loved. They are words our nation's youth still need to hear, know, and remember.

I'm sure you've seen the headlines about loneliness. Western individualism has produced unprecedented social isolation unique to 21st century youth. Even though opportunities for social connection have exponentially increased, suicide rates have reached all-time highs, and sexual exploitation is rampant. It seems as though Satan is preparing for his grand finale – working overtime to convince people that they are alone and worthless.

But why is Satan using loneliness as a weapon? So much of our sin, such as the Sexual Revolution, pornography usage, and suicide, can be traced back to loneliness. Loneliness hurts, and the pain compounds into a physical sickness, which can't be corrected with anything but real, deep connections. Science and faith agree on this point: we are relational beings. We were created to connect with one another.

Jesus models what it looks like to live in genuine relationship. He entered this world not by splitting the heavens but by gently growing in His mother's womb. He spent His early years in obscurity, and then launched His ministry by inviting others to follow Him. Even on the eve of His crucifixion, He gathered for a meal with His disciples and then led them to pray with Him at Gethsemane. With His final breath, He instructed His disciples to care for His mother. His life reminds us that even He did not live life in isolation.

Like Jesus, we exist for relationships. Created in the image of a triune - and therefore eternally relational - God, to be fully alive means to live in relationships. We weren't made to connect through the screen on a phone. We weren't made to base our worth on how many followers we have on social media. Simply put, we were made for more. That's a truth

by Sammie Franks

that I yearn for the youth of America to know and trust. If you're like me and want to see them really love Him too, we have to ask the question: how do we win this battle? For years, the Church has taken an approach of "do this, don't do that" teaching. And it hasn't worked.

There's a better way than trying to convince teenagers to use their own willpower to submit to God. I didn't come up with it; in fact, it's an idea found in Scripture, and Paul was particularly clear about it:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. (*Colossians 3:1-10*)

When I read this passage from Colossians, I was struck. Paul states that Christ is my life. He is. Fact. Done deal. He does not say that "Christ is your life if you accomplish this or give that away." No. None of that. Paul states, qualification free, that Christ is my life. This kind of statement in Scripture is called an indicative - something that has already been declared about us as a fact, a truth.

Indicatives aren't the only kind of statement in Scripture, however. There are also imperatives. An imperative is something we are supposed to do, phrased as a command

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What's on the Web – New Features on AFL's Website

In 2016 Anglicans for Life updated its website, giving it a cleaner, more contemporary look and making it easier for people to find information and connect with us. This summer, we updated several other features of the website, and we want to share them with you!

Life Leader, Chapter Leader, & Life Affirming Church Map

Did you know that we have over 80 Life and Chapter Leaders and more than 100 Life Affirming Churches nationally and internationally? With our new map, you can easily find a Life or Chapter Leader or Life Affirming Church in your area, whether you are moving and looking for a new church, on vacation and searching for a life-affirming Anglican

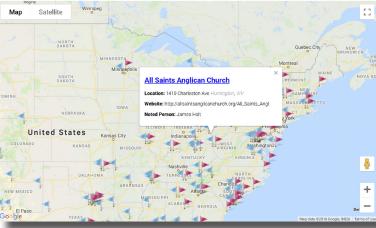
church to visit, or hoping to reach out to nearby churches and leaders for pro-life events or activities. Each church or leader is marked by a flag, which will direct you either to the church's website or to our contact form, to request contact with a Life or Chapter Leader.

Don't see your church on our map but want to let others know that your church stands for Life? Please contact our office at 412-749-0455 or Info@AnglicansforLife.org to learn more about becoming a Life Affirming Church. Rector approval is required.

Also, we encourage you to consider becoming a Life or Chapter Leader at your church. A Life Leader serves as a conduit between Anglicans for Life and their church. He or she must have a passion for upholding the sacredness of life and a willingness to be a leader. A Chapter can be formed when a church has several people who are actively committed to promoting Life through ministry, education, and advocacy. To learn more about becoming a Life or Chapter Leader, please contact our office at 412-749-0455 or Info@ AnglicansforLife.org.

Life Lectionary

For six years, Anglicans for Life sent out weekly teachings through email. We called it the Lectionary Life App. We have now collected these teachings into our new online resource, called he Life Lectionary. The



Life Lectionary is a collection of life-affirming reflections based on the Sunday lectionary readings, with the intent of showing how God tells us honor, protect, and celebrate Life in His Holy Word. Search by book, chapter, and verse for a teaching on a particular passage. We encourage you to share this resource with members of your church and to use it as an inspiration for sermons, adult education hours, or teachings

> in your church. We hope these reflections will expand your knowledge of what God's Word has to say about the sanctity of Life. You can easily access the Life Lectionary at LifeLectionary.org.

Updated Store

We have also updated AFL's store. It has a new, cleaner look, improved navigability and an easier check out and

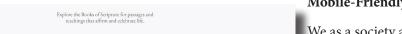
purchasing system, which no longer requires you to have a PayPay account, while still giving you the same access

to our excellent brochures, booklets, curriculums, and handouts. Just as we did in the old store, nearly all products will be viewable for free as PDFs. If you have questions about using the online store or the checkout process, please contact AFL Administrator Robin at Admin@ Anglicansforlife. org.



Mobile-Friendly

We as a society are increasingly using smart phones and tablets to access information online -- and as shown above -- we had to make changes to ensure AFL's website could meet that need! All of our pages now have responsive design, which will make it easier for you to use our website on all your devices and browsers.



GENESIS:

I SAMUEL:

2 SAMUEL:



I have been saying for years that I wanted to write a youth curriculum but honestly never felt equipped to do it nor had the bandwidth to know what to include. I came up with a few ideas and made tentative plans to work on it, but continually became distracted when it came to the execution phase.

Last summer, we brought Sammie Franks on staff through the Pittsburgh Fellows program hosted at St. Stephen's Anglican Church here in Sewickley. We hired her to assist in planning the third annual Summit: Mobilizing the Church for Life in Falls Church, Virginia and the first annual Life Symposium in San Francisco, California.

Sammie helped coordinate the events and got her foot in the door of our life-affirming ministry with enthusiasm and a refreshing perspective; when it came time to complete annual

staff reviews, Sammie suggested that we begin thinking about how we could engage the youth in Anglican churches. Specifically, she wrote on her review that she would like to be responsible for developing a curriculum that spoke to the main targets of Planned Parenthood, young and vulnerable teenagers, about their value and identity in Christ. The awesome part is that Sammie had no idea where my heart was on the issue of youth outreach and how it aligned with what she felt God was calling her to do.

Sammie & Georgette at the Fellows Garduation

We agreed she would begin researching and writing the curriculum once the January events were taken care of, not knowing God had bigger plans!

During the Summit, some of the ACNA Bishops got to discussing the need to get our youth involved in the March for Life and suggested that Young Anglicans Outreach and AFL get together to host an event for the youth in conjunction with the March for Life and the Summit!

The idea was great, but I knew Sammie's fellowship ended in May, so I was hestitant to commit. Events require a lot of planning and manpower to make happen, and without Sammie, who is also an expereinced youth leader, I didn't think AFL could successfully pull off a youth event!

Fortunately, God helped me see the solution was simple - hire Sammie full-time! While I loved the idea, I knew my budget couldn't handle three full-time employees. In the midst of

discussing my quandry with Robin, AFL's Administrator Extrodinare, she offered to reduce her hours to 32 hours, so she could enjoy an extra day at home each week and help fund Sammie's salary

All of this happened eight months ago and now we are kneedeep in research, writing, beta-testing, building websites, and planning January events! The goal is to have 12 teachings available online by January and, to date, Sammie has completed the first six, which are outstanding!

When God moves, He really moves!

The next critical part requires your involvement - we need your help in two ways. First, help us spread the word about the **Abundant Life Curriculum** and the **ySummit** to the Youth Leaders in your parish. Please share this newsletter

with the appropriate leaders in your church so they can get our new resource and event on their radar screen! Additional details about all the January events is on the backside of this newsletter as well.

Second, will you help kick-start this youth initiative with a financial gift to Anglicans for Life's ministry to help fund Sammie's salary, the first ySummit event, and the Abundant Life curriculum production and website? We estimate a total cost of \$40,000.

We have a gracious donor that has agreed to match any donations we receive, up to \$25,000, through September 30, 2018. (To date, we have raised \$14,235

to be matched.) If you would prayerfully consider donating to the matching grant, it would bless the work we are doing immensely. I truly believe God has anointed this initiative, and I have faith that the truth will indeed set young people free of the relational chains that plague their souls. All donations that are made using the enclosed envelope will be ear-marked for the Abundant Life Youth Initiative and matched, so your \$50 gift becomes \$100!

This expereince reminds me of God's faithfulness and the truth that one day He will restore life to all, as it was created to be. How marvelous it is that He has not only chosen to redeem us but that He includes us in His kingdom work of bringing all people, of all ages, to His throne of grace and love.

For His glory,

AFL President

ABUNDANT LIFE: You Were Made for More cont'd.

or a direction. It might sound dry to talk about types of statements, but it is hugely important for this reason: when we confuse indicatives with imperatives, we sabotage our ability to live our true identities.

As the Church, we tend to get this so wrong. Some of us think that commands threaten our freedom. Others love imperatives but for the wrong reasons, thinking that if we keep the commands we can somehow present ourselves as righteous people. But both of these approaches are wrong. Every imperative in Scripture is based on an indicative. In other words, we're never asked to do something until we're told something true about who we are. The truths of the Gospel support and sustain the commands of the Gospel. If we don't first understand the truth about who we are – or more importantly, whose we are – we will be crushed by the weight of the commands.

Jesus always tells us who we are before He ever tells us what to do, because Jesus knows two things: first, He's asking the impossible. And second, He specializes in making the impossible possible.

Let's look at when this happens in Scripture. You will flee from sexual immorality - true, but not before you are reminded that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Christ is in you. That's who you are, so because of that, flee from sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-19).

Do nothing out of selfish ambition - true, but not before you are reminded that the mind of Christ, the humble servant, is in you. That's who you are, so because of that, act in humility (Philippians 2:1-4).

You will always forgive your enemies - true, but not before you are reminded that you have been forgiven. The death of Jesus has washed away every sin. That's who you are, so because of that, forgive your enemies (Matthew 6:14-15).

This paradigm isn't found only in the New Testament. Think of the greatest list of rules in all of human history, the Ten Commandments. How does it begin? "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt." That's identity, ladies and gentlemen. He's saying: "You were slaves, but now you're free, and because of that, I'm going to remind you how to live into the abundance of your identity."

Identity statements are everywhere. Find a command, and you'll find somewhere near it a truth about who you are. When I was growing up, no one ever told me that. No one had ever shown me how Scripture builds every command on the foundation of the truth of our identity in Christ. They just told me what to do. And even though it was all great advice, I didn't want a list of do's and do not's. What I desperately wanted was for someone to tell me I was loved, despite all my junk. I wanted to be made new. I wanted to 4 be known. Thankfully, Jesus chased me down after years of

craving the love only He can offer. That's when I learned that transformation doesn't begin with getting our acts together. It begins with meeting Jesus. When we do that, we are given a new identity – identity based on His righteousness. And that is how we become who we are. Not by our own effort or achievement but by virtue of being hidden in Christ.

If we want to bring real life transformation to the Church's youth, we must first speak to who they are. Every teenager yearns to know the answer to two fundamental questions: "Who am I and what am I doing here?" We have the answer. And that's how Anglicans for Life's **Abundant Life: You Were Made for More** Youth Curriculum was born.

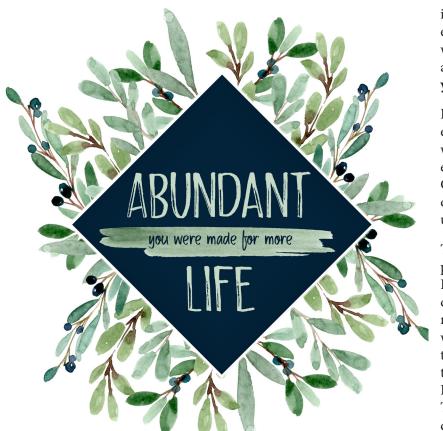
The Youth Curriculum and its official name, logo, and branding are in the final stages! This curriculum's goal is to educate middle school and high school students about relational and culturally-relevant topics through Scriptural teaching and in partnership with parents and youth leaders. The first 12-weeks of the curriculum will be launched at the Summit in January, introduced by myself and Rev. Steven Tighe with Young Anglicans. It will be available for youth leaders to incorporate into their weekly ministries, complete with a large group teaching, small group questions, and supplemental materials. The goal is to engage teens, partner with parents, and equip volunteers in having conversations about sexuality and healthy relationships. The curriculum is made up of modules, each of which has an overarching theme. Here's a sneak peek at the first two!

1. Module 1 – Rooted: Knowing & Believing Who You Are This is the first module for a very distinct reason. The three teachings in this module are based around setting the scene for deeper conversations about issues that have the ability to penetrate our identity, so much so that sometimes we allow them to define us. First, we tackle the question of "who am I?". Then we talk about the distinguishable difference between love and infatuation. Finally, we dive into the idea of getting our relationship right with God before we can get our relationships with each other right. The bottom line: who we think we are really affects how we live our other relationships.

- Teaching 1 Identity
- Teaching 2 Love v. Infatuation
- Teaching 3 God, Guys, and Girls

2. Module 2 - Let's Get Real

The three teachings in this module are focused around the reality of the culture. When we look at what students' days are filled with, we can see a clear picture of counterfeit intimacy, distraction, and comparison that is too often fueled by social media. We must shine the light on struggles like pornography, loneliness, and rejection and declare that there is hope because Jesus has already overcome them. After taking a few weeks to study identity in Module 1, these



teachings look at how understanding our identity in Jesus is guaranteed to lead us to freedom. Before we fully live into the abundant life Jesus Christ has provided for us, we have to get real and deal with our relational and sexual brokenness.

- Teaching 1 Social Media (It's Not What You Think)
- Teaching 2 Pornography: The Culprit of Diminishing Relationships
- Teaching 3 Uninvited: Loneliness and Rejection

I fully believe this curriculum is a cohesive complement to the Gospel and highlights exactly what students need to know. Bishop David Hicks has been involved in the youth initiative from the beginning and offers his thoughts on the teachings: "Relationships are at the core of who we are, and our culture, specifically our youth, are being overwhelmed with opinions on relationships, sexuality, social justice, and how they all fit together. Anglicans for Life, through Abundant Life: You Were Made for More is aiming to redefine relationships through the Gospel. I echo their vision that once every student knows, believes, and trusts who they were created to be, it will transform their lives. You don't want to miss this."

In our last issue of Carpe Diem, when we told you about the youth initiative, we also shared the exciting news about ySummit 2019: Mobilizing Young Anglicans for Life. We have made exciting progress since then! With the input of the Rev. Dr. Steven Tighe, Provincial Youth Canon for the ACNA's Young Anglicans outreach, various youth leaders and a host of bishops in the Anglican Church, we're aiming to educate and

inspire youth to get involved in the fight for Life. The event will connect life issues with the Gospel through worship, fellowship, and engaging speakers. Details about the ySummit and Registration are at www. ysummit.org!

Rev. Tighe had this to say about the upcoming event: "The Lord has anointed this team of people with a distinct passion for Jesus, youth, and life. I am ecstatic to see Young Anglicans be a part of this with Georgette and Sammie, because I know that the Lord deeply cares about life. He made it, He sustains it, and ultimately, He is it."

The speakers at the ySummit will hit on three main points: education, inspiration, and participation. First, we'll cover the pro-life movement basics, really digging into why the March for Life has become a national event and why we participate in it. Next, we will connect the Gospel to the pro-life cause. We'll talk about abundant life, and how Jesus wasn't just talking about eternal life that we are given through Him. He was talking about a full life, here and now. The final outcome of the battle of life has already been decided by the Resurrection of Christ. We are not working for victory, we are working from it. We must

proclaim, celebrate, and serve it until He comes again to bring it to its fullness. Finally, we'll talk about how we can spread the message of abundant life, engage in the culture, and get involved in the life issues that God cares about.

Bishop Stewart E. Ruch III sums it up well: "An important part of growing up is coming to grips with the injustices of your own culture and understanding God's great justice work in Jesus and in the kingdom of God. I'm enthusiastic for our Anglican youth to trust in Jesus and His justice as they face into this era of abortion in which they are now living. The March for Life has been very significant for my own children, and I look forward to the additional discipleship opportunities that will be provided for our youth as well."

People are desperate to anchor their identity to something that won't change... to something that won't be taken from them. I know the answer to their desperation. You know the answer. Jesus. Jesus is the answer to loneliness, isolation, depression, anxiety, weariness, and addiction. But if we don't first understand the truth about who we are, we will be crushed by the weight of the commands. But considering who we are, the commands should refresh our souls, leading us to abundant life. Let's get into the battle, win souls for the Kingdom, and remind students who they are. They were made for so much more.

We can't wait for January – and if you want to partner with us, please read Deacon G's article on page 3! And please pray that the Lord would guide us, as we know He has gone before us. 5

GAFCON & The Cost of Discipleship

When I was first called to serve as AFL's executive director back in 1998, I was not very adventurous. I was not a fan of traveling, and I had no desire to go beyond the beaches of the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean! I can still clearly remember the moment when I knew the Lord was telling me it was time to cross the Atlantic and accept the invitation to venture into new countries.

My not so adventurous self reminded me about how hesitant I was about travel as I packed for Jerusalem and GAFCON 2018 in June. I was filled with mixed emotions. As fear of failure loomed in front of me, I questioned the validity of the workshop presentation I had prepared to deliver at GAFCON, all the while the excitement of seeing the Holy Land filled me with joy and anticipaton. The knowledge that my husband Jim was traveling with me kept me from praying the event would get cancelled!



So off we went with 80+ pounds of life-affirming brochures, publications, and resources to share with the GAFCON attendees! From the get go, God reminded me

that adventures with Him were worth being taken out of my comfort zone. The plane from London to Tel Aviv was filled with fellow Anglicans also finding their way to GAFCON. The

meeting and greeting began!

As I listened to people share the travails of their travel, the phrase 'the cost of discipleship' kept flashing like a neon sign in my mind. The cost of discipleship was the title of one of the keynote presentations on the schedule; it was also in my notes of what Archbishop Peter Jensen asked me to address in my workshop presentation



Meet Margaret from Nigeria doing AFL ministry!

as he acknowledged how hard it was to find people willing to serve the Lord and defend the sanctity of life.

Georgette & Cristobal being

interviewed by GAFCON TV

The workshop was entitled: Growing the Gospel of Life in a Culture of Death, and the Rev. Cristóbal Cerón from the Diocese of Chile in the Province of South America, who is the Rector at Santiago Apóstol Church, and Dean of the Centre for Pastoral Studies in Chile, co-presented it with me. While

we had only communicated via email in preparation for the workshop, God's Spirit had been working with us to create a beautful blend of biblical and practical teaching that



was extremely well received by all who attended.

As I talked to people visiting the Anglicans for Life exhibit table who had attended the workshop, many commented on how much they learned about abortion, euthanasia, and life. A few also mentioned the bullet points I shared that highlighted the characteristics of a disciple.

- Acknowledges Authority: A desire to receive God's authority to destroy evil spirits and heal every disease, sickness and to care for those who are bruised and hurting. (Mt. 10:1)
- Teachable: Disciple means learner, we learn Christ's ways to be able to follow Him (ditto)
- Walk by Faith: Jesus first miracle was at the Cana wedding, and it revealed His glory and inspired His disciples to put their faith in Him (John 2:11)
- Walk in Truth: Disciples make the Lord's teaching a priority and recognize it as TRUTH (John 8:31)
- Walk with God: Christ reveals the Father to His disciples and invites us into relationship. (John 20:20)
- Loving: We are to love one another which Jesus taught after He washed the disciple's feet. (John 13:34-35)
- Glorify God: Bear fruit for God's glory and kingdom (John 15:8)
- Embraces Servanthood: Doesn't run from suffering, selfdenial, complete dedication, self-sacrifice, doing God's will instead of our own. (MT 10:37-39)
- Evangelical: Called to make disciples (Mt. 28:19)
- Obedient: Strengthened in fellowship, prayer, and teaching (Acts 14:21-22, 18:23)

This trip had many highlights, most of all the fellowship and singing at the conference and visiting Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We also sand "Amazing Grace" on the Temple Steps as tourists! But as I considered it all on the long journey home, I found myself seeing the neon sign again - the cost of discipleship.

I kept thinking about the testimonies that were shared during both the general sessions and in informal conversations. The cost of discipleship obviously includes things lost for standing up for the faith, like buildings, jobs, family relationships, financial stability, and friendships. But most people's testimonies were really about surrendering their right to live life on their terms and embracing the call, the job, or the assignment God has thrust into their life!

I came home and dug deeper into Scripture and my notes

about discipleship, aware there was more to discipleship than the bullet points I shared at the workshop. While these are good - there's more to being a disciple. Here is what I found:

In Matthew 10:37-39 Jesus says, "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life

will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." (NIV)

This point is made six times in the four Gospels, so it must be *very* important.

Jesus asks for unqualified allegiance, which no one else demands. The central point is that love for God and His kingdom must take precedence over every other human

relationship. We must give God the right to our lives, surrender our family, die to self. So great are the demands of discipleship that obedience will lead to conflicts with family, but devotion to Jesus must take precedence. over all other obligations

In John 12:24-26 Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." (NIV)

Again, Jesus speaks here in absolute terms to emphasize the point that to love of one's life literally means the person delights in his life in this world more than in God or, by contrast, hates his life in this world, and thinks so little of his life and so

much of God that he is willing to sacrifice it all.

As disciples who serve the Lord for life, the reference to the kernel of wheat in Jesus' analogy adds an additional dimension to the importance of His teaching for us. Consider that the kernel illustrates the principle of life through death as seen in the plant world. The kernel must perish as a kernel if there is to be a plant which bears fruit.

Ultimately, the principle of the kernel is seen in the cross of

Jesus – as He dies, He makes eternal life for all humanity possible. Likewise, when we die to our needs and seek to serve others, they benefit and gain life that can be lived for God, going on to help others. Just as one kernel becomes many plants, one life saved impacts many others.

Acknowledging the benefits, knowing God is glorified, His

Kingdom is proclaimed, and people are being saved from death, sin, and a lifetime of grief, and heartache, makes discipleship worth the cost.

In addition to being inspired to live more faithfully as a disciple, I came home from GAFCON grateful for their willingness to acknowledge the sanctity of life in their 'Letter to the Churches.' It contained the following paragraph that honors life:

External attacks include superstitious practices

of sacrifices and libations that deny the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. Some religions deny the unique person and work of Christ on the cross, and others are innately syncretistic. Secularism seeks to exclude God from all public discourse and to dismantle the Christian heritage of many nations. This has been most obvious in the redefinition of what it means to be human, especially in the areas of gender, sexuality and marriage. The devaluing of the human person through the

advocacy of abortion and euthanasia is also an assault upon human life uniquely created in the image of God. Militant forms of religion and secularism are hostile to the preaching of Christ and persecute his people.

As Christ's disciples, whereever we are called to serve Him, may we willingly embrace the adventure regardless of the cost and serve Him for life.





New friends declaring they're Anglicans FOR LIFE!



Upcoming opportunties to be equipped for Life Ministry





In Theaters Friday, October 12, 2018

Learn more at: GosnellMovie.com



Have a showing at your Church - learn more: FatalFlawsFilm.com



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