

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

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Study Guide

# Higher Heights - Anniversary Sunday

Mark Pettus  
February 2, 2026

## Major Points

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- 1 The greatest miracle of the first 25 years is not buildings or numbers but that God has been faithfully present with the church.**  
*Matthew 28:20*
- 2 Knowing God is about intimate heart relationship (ginosko), not mere intellectual knowledge or religious transaction.**  
*John 10:14*
- 3 True spiritual freedom comes through honest community; the church's small groups combat the world's epidemic of loneliness.**  
*James 5:16*
- 4 Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey, not a three-step program; the Growth Track is a launch pad for life.**  
*Ephesians 4:15-16*
- 5 Every believer is a minister on the Dream Team — not just on Sundays but every single day in every sphere of life.**  
*Acts 1:8*
- 6 The church's mission will not slow down; it exists for those not yet here, and enough is enough only when all have heard.**  
*Habakkuk 3:19*

## Key Quotes

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*“And I just got to stand here in the first few moments and the first thing out of my mouth in this message on our 25th anniversary is all glory to God.*

at 5:14

*“We are not a church just for those who are here. We are a church for those who are not here yet.*

at 15:34

*“When is enough enough? I'll go and give you the answer. When all have heard.*

at 16:08

*“You can have friendships, but you can't have fellowship. Fellowship is a Jesus word.*

at 21:14

*“The growth track was never meant to be just three classes and have a good life. The growth track is a launch pad for a lifelong journey of growth.*

at 24:36

*“We are not just on Dream Team on Sunday. Come on, church. We're Dream Team every single day.*  
at 28:28

*“We're not a great church. We serve a great God.*  
at 36:56

## Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Pettus said the greatest miracle of the first 25 years is simply that God has been with them. What does God's faithful presence look like in your own life, and how does recognizing it change your perspective on difficult seasons?  
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2. Pastor Pettus distinguished between knowing God intellectually and knowing Him intimately through the Greek word 'ginosko.' In what ways might your faith be more transactional or head-knowledge based, and what would it look like to deepen your heart relationship with God?  
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3. When Pastor Pettus declared 'we are a church for those who are not here yet,' how does that challenge your personal comfort level at church, and what is one practical step you could take this week to reach someone who doesn't yet know Jesus?  
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4. Pastor Pettus emphasized that fellowship (koinonia) is different from ordinary friendship because it requires the power of God. How have you experienced this distinction in your own small group or church community, and why is it especially important in an age of loneliness?  
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5. Pastor Pettus challenged the congregation to be 'Dream Team every day,' not just on Sundays. Like Sia who invited her Uber driver to church, where is your everyday mission field, and what would it look like for you to live as a minister in that space this week?  
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## Word Studies

## γινώσκω ginosko

*Greek*

To know by experience or personal relationship; to perceive, understand, or recognize through intimate acquaintance. Distinguished from 'oida' (intellectual or factual knowledge), ginosko implies a deepening, experiential knowledge that grows over time through relationship.

*Usage: 222 times*

## κοινωνία koinonia

*Greek*

Fellowship, communion, sharing, or partnership. Refers to the deep spiritual bond among believers that is made possible by the Holy Spirit. It goes beyond social friendship to describe a shared participation in the life of Christ and mutual giving and receiving among the body of believers.

*Usage: 19 times*

## μαθητεύω matheteuo

*Greek*

To make a disciple; to enroll as a pupil or learner. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), this is the main imperative verb — the central command is not merely to go, baptize, or teach, but to make disciples, implying an ongoing process of formation and mentorship.

*Usage: 4 times*

## Cross References

### **Jeremiah 29:11**

Reinforces the sermon's theme that God has plans for a hopeful future — both for individuals and for the church as it enters the next 25 years.

### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Supports the emphasis on community and not giving up meeting together, directly paralleling the urgency Pastor Pettus placed on small groups and gathering in circles, not just rows.

### **1 Peter 2:9**

Echoes the Dream Team teaching that every believer is called as a royal priesthood — ministers in every sphere of life, not just in church buildings on Sundays.

## 2 Timothy 1:7

Connects to the call for boldness and the Spirit's empowerment in Acts 1:8, affirming that God gives a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline for the mission.

## Colossians 1:28-29

Parallels the Growth Track for Life vision — Paul's goal of presenting everyone fully mature in Christ through teaching and laboring with God's energy.

## Further Reading

- **Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire**  
*by Jim Cymbala*
- **The Purpose Driven Church**  
*by Rick Warren*
- **Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community**  
*by Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Matthew 28:18-20	Read Aloud	6 : 40	<i>Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority i...</i>
Philippians 1:6	Read Aloud	9 : 40	<i>Being confident of this, that he who began a good ...</i>
Habakkuk 3:19	Read Aloud	13 : 40	<i>The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my fee...</i>
John 10:14	Read Aloud	16 : 20	<i>I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my she...</i>
James 5:16	Read Aloud	22 : 20	<i>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray...</i>
John 17:21	Read Aloud	24 : 20	<i>That all of them may be one, Father, just as you a...</i>
Ephesians 4:15-16	Read Aloud	28 : 20	<i>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow ...</i>
Acts 1:8	Read Aloud	32 : 20	<i>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit co...</i>
Esther 4:14	Referenced	36 : 20	<i>For if you remain silent at this time, relief and ...</i>
Psalms 26:8	Read Aloud	40 : 00	<i>Lord, I love the house where you live, the place w...</i>