



**DECEMBER 26**

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## INTRODUCTION

In the middle of holidays, we pause to take stock of the year that has been and the year that will be. In this unique online service, we hear four big ideas in bite-sized segments from Pastor John and Pastor Jesse to help us end 2021 well.

## DISCUSSION

1. **Read Matthew 7:13-14 and Mark 8:34-26.** Being part of a No Matter church means we are on a journey of being a No Matter follower. We are called to walk a different, narrow path of allegiance to Jesus. Share some of your faith journey with those in the group.
2. **Read Psalm 116.** The psalmist shows us taking time to tell God “thanks” for everything He’s done helps us to see things differently. Share something you’re thankful God did for you or your family in 2021.
3. **Read John 11.** Even though her brother Lazarus had been dead four days, Martha believed Jesus could still heal her brother. Jesus had the power to do whatever for whomever. Share a time God demonstrated that power in your life.
4. **Read Matthew 22:37-40 and Romans 12.** God calls us to live a life of love to those around us as well as ourselves. As you end the year well, how can you show more love to those in your Little Iowa?

## TAKE ACTION

1. Ask God to help you be an example of a No Matter follower with those possibly traveling down a different path than you.
2. Tell God “thanks” for all the good things He’s done.
3. Reflect on the following questions:
  - What’s one thing you need to ask God for in the new year?
  - Who might benefit from seeing God answer your prayer?
4. Focus on what Jesus said is most important: Do you need to clean up your side of the road with God? With others? With yourself?

## RESOURCES

1. Watch and practice the prayers as presented by Max Lucado in *Before Amen* on [RightNow Media](#).
2. Incorporate a gratitude journal in your routine, available on Amazon and [christianbooks.com](#).
3. *In His Image: 10 Ways God Calls Us to Reflect His Character* by Jen Wilkin