

I. Introduction: the heart of Jesus Nights.

- A. This is our first Jesus Night (of hopefully many). A few months ago, the Holy Spirit began to lay on my heart this idea of **“turning things up a notch”** during our Friday Encounter Night gatherings. This meant that instead of our usual gathering of a couple hours, we’d purpose to press into God for five or six hours as well as try to get the word out so others could join with.
- B. Having served in ministry for about 20 years now, I recognize how easy it can be to get stuck in routine. The Holy Spirit is zealous that we would jolt ourselves out of the norm and press for more for this house and our larger community. And although we are always supposed to be focused on Jesus in all we do, every once in awhile, as the Spirit leads, I believe we’re to come together as a community for a time of extended fervent pursuit with anticipation that we will encounter Him in powerfully refreshing and lifechanging ways. It’s so important that we, as a community, learn to be faithful to what Jesus has called us to do, which is build a house of prayer (that I believe will one day be 24/7), but at the same time avoid the pitfall that routine faithfulness can potentially produce. A very slow almost undiscernible disconnect from a passionate present-tense relationship with Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit is easy to slip into.
- C. The other main things that the Holy Spirit has emphasized to my heart is the critical importance of **gathering with a focus on Jesus**. The charismatic Christian culture we find ourselves in today is heavily reliant on big name speakers and worship artists. I’ve noticed for years that much of the church will not turn up to prayer meetings or “extra” evenings of worship unless a big name is involved somehow. To be clear, we need the big names in the body of Christ and we are to honor them and learn from them—they are a gift to the global church! But, at the same time, if we’re not engaged in our walk with God in real meaningful and consistent ways outside of the large conferences or popular gatherings, then those big names have become idols that have replaced Jesus in our life. That is a serious sin that must be recognized and turned from (repentance). **Jesus absolutely must be first in our hearts**, here at the GPHOP, in our local congregations and in our shared life together as Christians.

II. Jesus: the Man we should want more than anything or anyone else.

- A. Simply put, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God in the flesh, the second Person of the Trinity, is a **very big deal**. No matter how well we know Him or how high we already think of Him, **Jesus is still exceedingly greater than our highest thought of Him**. Tonight, I simply want to remind us of His greatness and that there’s always more of Him to experience!

1. Jesus with His disciples at a wedding (Summarize the story and read John 2:11-12.)

- The first miracle attributed to Jesus was at a place called Cana. He turned water into wine. In doing this, the Scripture says **He “manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”** The Scripture also said this was a sign—signs from God are a type of miracle that also points to something else even more significant in God. He’s the God who saves the best for last!
- Friends, there’s so much more to encounter in our life in Christ. The more we ask for Him to reveal Himself, the more He will. And the more He does, the more we believe in Him. The more we believe in Him, the more we’re motivated to ask for more. It’s a holy cycle. Part of this motivation is understanding that Jesus loves to do greater and greater things the later it gets in the evening.

2. Jesus with Philip and Nathanael (Summarize the story and read John 1:43-51.)

- Jesus cuts to the heart of Nathanael’s cynicism with a word of knowledge and then promises he will see much “greater things.” Friends, there’s so much more than we’ve seen or ever heard of—and it’s all about Him!

3. Jesus with His disciples at sea (Summarize the story and read Mark 4:39-41)

- Notice what the disciples said here. Though they had followed Jesus and heard His teachings, they were now discovering Him in a new way and it blew their mind. He went way off their grid!

4. Jesus with the man possessed by a Legion of demons (Summarize the story and read Mark 5:5-15.)

- We’re shown a picture of demons begging and pleading with Jesus and the utter power of the Son of God to set people free no matter how demonized they are. Just a little glimpse of Jesus from afar can set in motion a radical shift in our life. Whatever this man saw caused him to run toward Jesus and worship and, therefore, positioned himself to encounter God’s lifechanging power.

5. Jesus with Martha (Summarize the story and read Mark John 11:21-27)

- Similar to how Jesus addressed Nathanael, I believe Jesus wants to address the places in our heart that have developed **theological cynicism**, which is what I believe is described here in this passage and what I believe many Christians struggle with. It's a sort of unbelieving hopelessness that lives spiritually disconnected and thinks the best is behind us. I've got good news—it's not!

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for March 1, 2019.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENT:** Our annual **Central Illinois Prayer Summit** is coming up soon April 5-6. Also, keep in mind our monthly gatherings on Saturday nights. We have a **Young Men's Discipleship** gathering on the first Saturday of the month and we have a **Kids Prayer Night** once per month on the second Saturday of each month. Young Men's Discipleship is tomorrow night and Kids Prayer Night is March 9.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*