

## GILGAL TO GLORY: SERMON NOTES

### ***When God Moves You From the Place of Preparation***

Pastor Stephän Kirby | Ekklesia Christian Life Ministries | February 8, 2026

#### OPENING QUESTION

**Can you see Jesus in this shifting, moving season?**

#### KEY SCRIPTURE | Joshua 4:19–24 (NLT)

*"The people crossed the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month. Then they camped at Gilgal, just east of Jericho. It was there at Gilgal that Joshua piled up the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River. Then Joshua said to the Israelites, 'In the future your children will ask, "What do these stones mean?" Then you can tell them, "This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground." For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord's hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.'"*

#### WHAT IS GILGAL?

GILGAL MEANS: "Rolling away" or "circle"

#### GILGAL WAS:

Israel's first campsite after crossing the Jordan River

A staging ground, not a destination

A place of preparation for what was next

#### AT GILGAL, GOD:

Removed the reproach of Egypt (Joshua 5:9)

Renewed covenant through circumcision

Shifted provision (from manna to the fruit of the land)

Prepared them to take Jericho

APPLICATION: Gilgal wasn't permanent — it was preparatory.

### **EKKLESIA'S GILGAL JOURNEY**

14 Years | 7 Locations | 1 Faithful God

<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>TIMELINE</u></b>	<b><u>WHAT GOD DID</u></b>
Flintlock Avenue	June 2011 (4 weeks)	First worship service - 24 people. Launched the movement.
Dixie Highway	August 2011 (9 months)	First 3 members joined. Church officially organized.
Bluegrass Avenue	May 2012 (years)	First purchased property (1401, 1405, 1407). Ownership.
La Salle Avenue	COVID season	Storm destroyed Bluegrass. God opened La Salle within 1 week.
Cane Run Road	Temporary shelter	Pastor Stephen Smith (Mt Hermon Baptist) provided refuge.
River Road	February 2025 (4 weeks)	Current Gilgal moment. Preparation through fasting and prayer.
Nia Center	March 2025 (1st Sunday)	West Broadway. Strategic Kingdom assignment.

## **BIG IDEA**

God doesn't measure faithfulness by the length of the season — He measures it by the depth of your obedience.

Four weeks at Flintlock → Years at Dixie Highway

Four weeks at River Road → ? at the Nia Center

Pattern: Short season of faithfulness → Long season of blessing

## **SIX TRUTHS ABOUT GILGAL SEASONS**

### **1. GOD DOESN'T WASTE SHORT SEASONS**

The Lie: "Four weeks isn't long enough to matter."

The Truth: God can do more in four weeks of obedience than four years of hesitation.

At Flintlock (4 weeks):

First worship service

Established identity as Ekklesia

Launched a 14-year movement

At River Road (4 weeks):

Personal Reflection: How am I stewarding this short season?

### **2. EVERY TRANSITION PROVES GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**

Look at the pattern:

Flintlock → Dixie Highway: Faithful

Bluegrass → La Salle: Faithful

Cane Run → River Road: Faithful

River Road → Nia Center: Faithful

My testimony of God's faithfulness in transition:

### **3. GILGAL IS WHERE GOD REMOVES REPROACH**

Joshua 5:9 — "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt."

Egypt = bondage identity

Gilgal = freedom identity

During this 21-day fast, God rolled away:

Shame from past seasons

Fear that He won't provide

Doubt about His timing

Bitterness from losses

Exhaustion from transitions

What has God rolled away from me?

### **4. GILGAL IS WHERE YOU RENEW COVENANT**

You can't take new territory with an old level of commitment.

God's questions during the fast:

Are you really all in — again?

Will you trust Me at River Road even though it's only 4 weeks?

Will you follow Me to West Broadway after 7 locations?

My covenant renewal:

I commit to: \_\_\_\_\_

I will trust God with: \_\_\_\_\_

I will follow Him even when: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. GILGAL IS WHERE PROVISION SHIFTS

Joshua 5:12 — "No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land."

### MANNA SEASON:

Temporary spaces  
Shared buildings  
Short-term provision  
Survival mode

### CANAAN SEASON:

Strategic location (Nia Center on West Broadway)  
Kingdom assignment  
Sustainable provision  
Inheritance mode  
God is shifting me from: \_\_\_\_\_  
God is moving me toward: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. GILGAL IS WHERE YOU SET UP MEMORIAL STONES

Joshua set up 12 stones so the next generation would ask:

"What do these stones mean?"

Answer: "This is where God showed up."

Ekklesia's Memorial Stones:

Flintlock (June 2011) — Launch  
Dixie Highway (August 2011) — Growth  
Bluegrass (May 2012) — Ownership  
La Salle (COVID) — Provision in the storm  
Cane Run — Shelter  
River Road (February 2025) — Preparation  
Nia Center (March 2025) — Assignment  
My personal memorial stones (where God showed up):

### PERSONAL REFLECTION: CAN YOU SEE JESUS?

In the shifting season, can you see Jesus:

- At Flintlock — launching something from nothing?
- At Dixie Highway — bringing the first members?
- At Bluegrass — giving ownership?
- In the storm — protecting us from danger?
- At La Salle — opening doors within one week?
- At Cane Run — providing shelter?
- At River Road — preparing us now?
- Leading us to the Nia Center?

If you can see Him in the shifting, you won't be shaken by the change.

My prayer: Jesus, help me see You in this season of transition. Open my eyes to Your presence in every move, every shift, every uncertainty. Amen.

## **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

What Do I Do With This Word?

### **1. HONOR THE FOUR WEEKS AT RIVER ROAD**

Don't check out because it's short.

This week I will:

- Show up to worship
- Serve in my capacity
- Give faithfully
- Pray for the church
- Encourage someone else

How I finish matters as much as how I start.

### **2. REMEMBER MY TESTIMONY**

When doubt comes, remind myself:

"God didn't fail at \_\_\_\_\_"

He won't fail now at \_\_\_\_\_"

My go-to testimony when I'm discouraged:

### **3. WALK IN COVENANT, NOT CONVENIENCE**

The Nia Center is not just a building. It's a Kingdom assignment.

West Broadway needs:

The Gospel preached

Families restored

Hope declared

Ekklesia's presence

My commitment to the Nia Center:

I will serve by: \_\_\_\_\_

I will give by: \_\_\_\_\_

I will pray for: \_\_\_\_\_

### **4. SET UP MY STONES**

Tell the story. Write it down. Share it.

I will share my testimony with:

- My children
- My family
- A friend
- On social media
- At small group

What I'll say:

### **5. PREPARE FOR THE NEXT LEVEL**

Gilgal led to Jericho (a walled city).

The Nia Center is preparation for breakthrough.

To prepare, I need:

Faith: Trust God even when I can't see the plan

Obedience: Do what He says, when He says it

Endurance: Don't quit in short seasons

One area where I need to grow in preparation:

## 6. LOOK FOR JESUS IN THE SHIFTING

Every Sunday at River Road — look for Jesus.

This week I will intentionally look for Jesus in:

- Worship
- Fellowship
- Transitions
- Uncertainty
- Daily life

When I see Him in the movement, I won't be moved by the movement.

## PROPHETIC WORD FROM THE LORD

"I have not brought you through seven locations to leave you stranded at the eighth.

What I did at Flintlock, I'm doing at River Road.

What I opened at Bluegrass, I will open at the Nia Center — and beyond.

I gave you four weeks at Flintlock to test your obedience.

I'm giving you four weeks at River Road to test your trust.

This is not a detour. This is divine direction.

I was faithful when the storm destroyed your building.

I was faithful when you needed shelter.

I am faithful now.

The Nia Center is not just a place to gather — it's a place to GO.

A launching pad for My Kingdom in West Louisville.

So stay faithful, Ekklesia.

Finish strong at River Road.

Step boldly into the Nia Center.

I was faithful then.

I am faithful now.

And I will be faithful tomorrow."

## REFLECTION & RESPONSE

Where am I spiritually right now?

- Excited about the move
- Tired of transitions
- Trusting God but uncertain
- Struggling to see Jesus in the shifting
- Ready to go all in
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What is God asking me to do?

- Repent of doubting His plan
- Renew my covenant

- Let go of weariness
- Look for Jesus in the movement
- Stay faithful in the short season
- Prepare my heart for the Nia Center

My prayer commitment:

For the next four weeks at River Road, I commit to praying:

My action step this week:

One practical thing I will do to honor this season:

### **CLOSING DECLARATION**

Seven locations.

Fourteen years.

One faithful God.

Four weeks at Flintlock led to Dixie Highway.

Four weeks at River Road is leading to the Nia Center — and beyond.

God was faithful then.

He is faithful now.

He will be faithful tomorrow.

I will stay faithful.

### **SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON THIS WEEK**

Joshua 5:9 — "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt."

Joshua 5:12 — "No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again."

Psalms 37:23–24 — "The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."

Proverbs 3:5–6 — "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Philippians 1:6 — "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

### **NOTES & REFLECTIONS**

Use this space to capture what God is saying to you:

Love U More Than U Know.

— Pastor Stephän

### **FOR MORE RESOURCES:**

Website: [www.ekklesiachristianlife.org](http://www.ekklesiachristianlife.org)

Watch Online: Sunday 10:45 AM

EKA Classes: Sunday 9:45 AM & Tuesday 7 PM (Zoom)

Mailing: PO Box 16274, Louisville, KY 40256

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