



PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

JUL-SEPT 2026

UNDERSTANDING *the Times*

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD. ATTENTIVE TO HIS SPIRIT. SENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MARK THE CALENDAR

Kids Church & 9am Service

Program Kick-off

September 13, 2026

El Salvador Missions
Fundraiser Lunch

Church Event

October 4, 2026

Old Testament Survey

Classes (10 Wks)

October 11, 2026



UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

PASTOR ROB HASLAM

"Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..."

1 Chronicles 12:32 (ESV)

We live in a world that is constantly changing. Every day brings new conversations, new challenges, new opportunities, and often new reasons to feel overwhelmed. Many people find themselves asking, "What is happening in our world?" and perhaps even more importantly, "How should we respond?"

The Bible introduces us to a group of people who offer a powerful example for moments like these: the sons of Issachar.

When the tribes of Israel gathered to recognize David as king, the sons of Issachar were described in a unique way. They were not remembered because they had the largest army or the greatest resources. They were remembered because they "understood the times" and "**knew what Israel ought to do.**" Their gift was not simply the ability to observe what was happening around them. Their gift was the ability to recognize what God was doing and respond faithfully.

The question for us today is the same: **Are we simply reacting to the world around us, or are we discerning what God is doing and how His people should respond?**

They Understood the Times

The sons of Issachar understood that the times required more than awareness. They needed spiritual discernment.

Understanding the times does not mean simply keeping up with news headlines, cultural conversations, or social trends. It means learning to recognize the spiritual realities behind what is happening around us. It means asking, *"Where is God at work? What is He inviting His people to do? How should we faithfully live in this moment?"*

Jesus challenged the religious leaders of His day because they could interpret the weather but failed to recognize the spiritual significance of what God was doing among them:

Matthew 16:3

"You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."

Scripture reminds us that every season has meaning:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

The sons of Issachar teach us that God's people should not be surprised by the world around them. We should seek wisdom from God, through His Word and His Spirit, so that we can understand the season we are living in.

A helpful question to ask is: **"What season are we in as a church, as families, and as individuals, and what is God calling us to do in this season?"**

They Knew What Israel Ought to Do

The sons of Issachar did not stop with understanding. They moved from insight to action. Biblical discernment is never meant to remain theoretical. Knowing what God is doing should lead us to obedience.

They recognized that God was establishing David as king, and they aligned themselves with God's purposes rather than simply holding on to what was familiar.



They had the courage to respond when God was doing something new.

This is an important reminder for us: understanding the times is not about predicting the future or having all the answers. It is about faithfully asking, **"What is my next step of obedience?"**

God calls us to change. He calls us to serve. He calls us to step into places of need that we may not have noticed before. Wisdom is not just knowing what is happening. Wisdom is knowing how God wants us to respond.

They Led Others

The sons of Issachar were not just individuals with insight; they were leaders who helped others respond faithfully. The passage tells us they had 200 chiefs, along with their relatives under their command. Their discernment was not meant to be kept private. God gave them understanding so they could help guide and strengthen others.

This is an important picture for the church today. Leaning into the times does not mean chasing every cultural change or simply trying to stay relevant. It means paying attention to where God is already working and asking how we can faithfully join Him. Sometimes that means recognizing a ministry need. Sometimes it means using a gift we have been given. Sometimes it means stepping into a place of service we have never considered before.

As we understand the times we live in, we should also ask: **"Where has God uniquely placed me to make a difference?"**

God does not call every person to the same role, but He does call every follower of Jesus to participate in His mission. The sons of Issachar understood their moment and helped others respond. We are called to do the same.

Our homes need people who understand the times.
Our workplaces need people who understand the times.
Our church needs people who understand the times.

The question is not only, "What is happening in our world?" but also: **"Where is God inviting me to serve in this moment?"**

Becoming People Who Discern and Respond

The church does not need more people who simply react to everything happening around them. We do not need to be shaped by fear, frustration, or the loudest voices in culture.

We need people who are rooted in God's Word, attentive to His Spirit, and willing to respond with courage and humility.

We need modern sons and daughters of Issachar; people who can see clearly, think wisely, serve faithfully, and help others follow Jesus.

As we seek to understand our times, may we continually ask:
Where might God be opening my eyes to something I have missed?
What faithful step of obedience is God inviting me to take?
Where can I use my gifts, time, and influence to serve His purposes?

May God give us the wisdom to understand the times and the courage to know what His people ought to do.

-Pastor Rob Haslam





TOWN HALL Updates

Admin Board

Stewarding What God Has Given Us

The Administration Board has had a busy year as they've continued settling into their roles and taking on new responsibilities. They are especially thankful for the direction, support, and guidance from the Lead Team throughout this process. Their willingness to walk alongside the Board, provide clarity, and help as new responsibilities were taken on has been a real encouragement. The Board is also grateful for everyone who has stepped up to serve and contribute along the way.

A big part of their work is keeping an eye on the financial health of the church and making sure resources are being used wisely. This includes reviewing budgets, considering ministry requests, and working through unexpected expenses when they come up.

They're also looking beyond the numbers. As Pathway continues to grow, the board is paying attention to the practical needs that come with that growth, including our buildings, equipment, and other assets. They even tackled a full inventory list this year... eventually, and are working on ways to make that process smoother going forward.

Another important part of their role is listening to the congregation. When concerns are brought forward, they take time to consider them and make recommendations where changes may be needed.

Through all of this, the desire is to be careful, thoughtful, and generous with what God has entrusted to Pathway. At the end of the day, this isn't simply about budgets, policies, or property. It's about serving the Lord and helping support the mission He has given our church.

As we think about stewardship, perhaps there is a good question for all of us: **What has God entrusted to you, and how are you using it for Him?**

Deacon Baord



Seeing the Needs Around Us

One of the things that happens when we begin to understand the times we are living in is that we start to see the needs around us more clearly. As a church, this means not only recognizing that people are facing new and growing challenges but asking how God is calling us to respond.

This has been part of the Deacon Board's experience this past year. Their role is one of servanthood, mercy, and outreach, representing Christ through practical acts of care. Their time together is rooted in Scripture and prayer, giving them space to grow together, seek God's direction, and care well for the needs of our church family.

That response often looks very practical. Through the Meal Train, families walking through surgery, welcoming a new baby, or facing difficult seasons can receive meals and support. Helping Hands provides an opportunity for people to share a need and for others to step in and help. The Deacons have also prepared and delivered food hampers to families in our church around Easter and Christmas.

The Benevolence fund is one of the ways they have been helping provide financial assistance to those facing difficult circumstances. With the rising cost of living, the team has been reviewing and updating the Benevolence Policy, seeking to increase the support available while also prayerfully discerning how to steward the resources entrusted to the church.

From sharing communion together to gathering around a table for a church potluck, these moments give meaningful opportunities to serve one another, build relationships, and strengthen the unity of our church family. As we move into another season with two services, the Deacons are also looking for new ways to create opportunities for fellowship and connection.

As life becomes more difficult for some, we are reminded that understanding the times is not simply about recognizing what is happening around us; it is about asking how God wants us to respond.

As a church family, let us ask ourselves:

- Who around us needs encouragement?
- Who could use practical help?
- Where God might be inviting us to step in and serve?

Understanding the times means seeing the needs around us and being willing to respond.



Elder Board



Growing, Serving, and Moving Forward Together

As we look at where God has brought Pathway and where He may be leading us next, there is much to be encouraged by. Our church continues to grow, and with that growth comes new opportunities to serve, disciple, and care for one another. There is a lot happening at Pathway, and the Elders are continuing to prayerfully consider how we can respond well to what God is doing.

One of the ways leadership is responding to this growth is through the continuation of our two Sunday morning services. Following the trial earlier this year, the Elders and ministry leaders listened to feedback, made adjustments, and prepared to continue with two services. Adding Kids Church to the 9AM service and expanding our worship teams are two practical ways the leadership is working to care for a growing congregation while creating more opportunities for people to serve.

At the heart of these changes is a desire to see people encounter Jesus and grow in their faith. This is especially evident in Pathway Kids, where a new discipleship initiative will help children become more confident in God's Word. Rather than simply hearing Bible stories on Sunday, children will be encouraged to open their own Bibles, find Scripture, understand its truth, and carry it with them throughout the week. It is a simple but important reminder that discipleship is not just about knowing God's Word, but learning to live it out.

This same focus is shaping the development of ministries across Pathway. The church's discipleship framework continues to be woven into our ministries, while leadership development resources are being developed to equip current and future leaders. The goal is for discipleship to become more than something the church teaches. It is something we grow in as we follow Jesus, are changed by Jesus, and participate in the mission of Jesus.

As our church grows, the Elders are also looking at how they can better care for and equip the people God has entrusted to us. Plans are underway for a Men's Ministry, a Marriage Enrichment Retreat, continued leadership development, and the need for a Student Ministries Director who could provide dedicated leadership and spiritual care for our Junior Youth, Senior Youth, and Young Adults. The upcoming missions trip to El Salvador also provides an opportunity for our church family to serve beyond our walls and share the love of Christ.

Looking ahead, the Elders, along with the Deacons and Administration Team, have begun a research and discernment phase for a potential future building project. No major decisions have been made.





At this stage, the focus is on understanding our ministry needs, exploring possibilities, researching costs and options, and most importantly, seeking God's wisdom. Several committees will help gather information and bring recommendations back to leadership and ultimately to the congregation.

While there is a lot happening at Pathway, the Elders emphasized that the goal is not simply to do more. It is about faithfully stewarding what God has given us and preparing for where He may be leading us. Growth brings responsibility, but it also brings opportunity.

There is a lot happening, but perhaps the question for all of us is: **Where is God inviting me to be part of what He is doing at Pathway? What step of faith, service, or obedience might He be asking me to take?**

As we continue to understand the times, let's not just watch what God is doing. Let's pray, stay rooted in His Word, and be willing to step in where He calls us.

