



***“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word...who indeed bears fruit...” -Matthew 13:23***

## **Welcome to Faith Fertilizer!**

Each month's issue features resources we recommend to help you grow your faith. Here you will find ideas such as books, articles, podcasts, tips, insights, and other tools that your pastors and staff have found helpful along their own spiritual journey.

If you find this helpful, please feel free to share with friends!  
Anyone can sign up [HERE](#).

## **Voices We're Listening To**

### **What It's About**

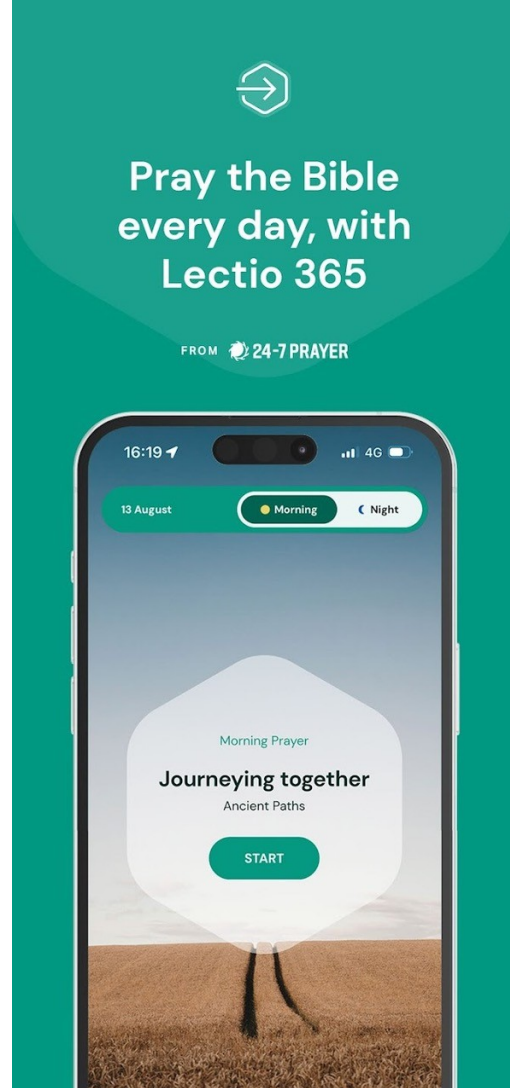
**Lectio 365** was started by the 24-7 Prayer movement. Pastor Pete Grieg and his team skillfully weave together scripture, ancient prayer practices, and modern heart-felt discipleship language in a way that helps you to grow spiritually and connect with God in refreshing ways each day.

### **Why I Recommend It**

One of the most impactful spiritual practices my parents imparted on me was prayer before bed. I still remember gathering as a family in our room at bedtime to say the Lord's Prayer, share about our day, and pray. When I went to college, I kept this up and began reading the Bible each night before bed. But I had never been able to find a daily devotional that really resonated with me. Until about 2 years ago when I discovered **Lectio 365**, and it is the

most simple, yet beautifully profound daily devotional I have ever used. One of the aspects I love the most is the global nature of the authorship. 24-7 Prayer is an ecumenical, global movement so there is a diverse range of voices that contribute, offering unique and new perspectives.

-Pastor Josh



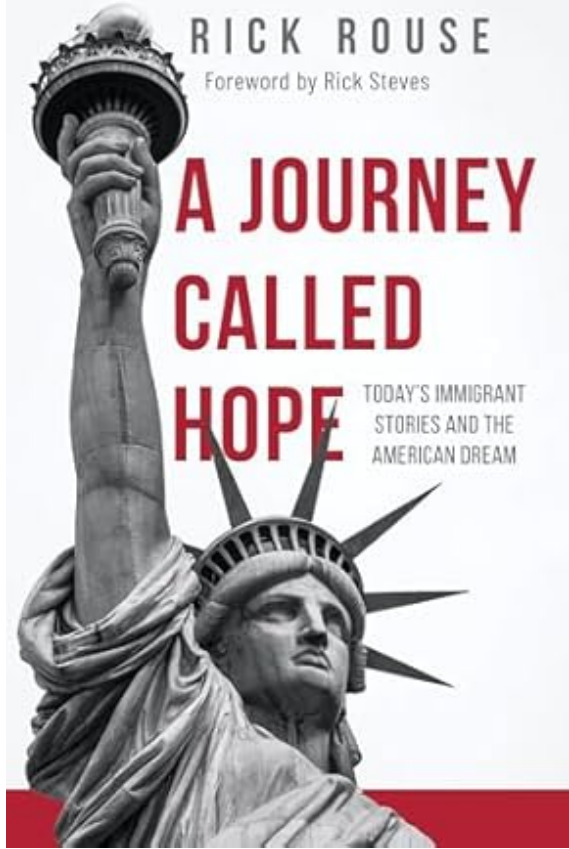
The Lectio 365 app is available for Android and iPhone. Learn more about it [HERE](#).

## Books We're Reading

### What It's About

The book is about immigrant stories and the American dream. Despite the hateful, xenophobic political rhetoric surrounding immigration, the United States is still a nation of refuge, hospitality, promise and hope. While the American story aspires to be the story of welcome for all, our history often tells a different story.

Author Rick Rouse weaves a tapestry of immigrant experiences- successes, hopes, challenges, and dreams- that have often unfolded amidst global conflicts and political polarization. These stories inspire compassion as "the least of these" search for a safe haven and we discover how diversity enriches



America and our faith.

## Why I Recommend It

This book compiled immigrants' experiences and dreams. They faced moments of sadness, fears, challenges, hopes, successes and joy while they were trying to assimilate to their new home: the USA. These are the stories of people living an unexpected reality but continue to trust God in the midst of all. Every story is an inspiration to practice love, faith and compassion. Part of my story told in this book is just one small thing among the many challenges I experienced as a woman, Latina, pastor who did not let circumstances dictate her life, but only God.

-Pastor Varinia

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