

Celebrating 150 Years

ADULT CONNECTION



OCTOBER 2017



Connected to Christ
150
Founded on 1857 • 150th Anniversary • 2007

Donald J. Wills
Senior Pastor

The purpose of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is to **introduce** people into a loving relationship with Jesus, **instruct** them in spiritual growth through God's Word, **inspire** them to serve for God's kingdom, and **incorporate** them in authentic worship to glorify God.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear FBC family and friends,

Our church has reached a historic milestone with 150 years of ministry. There are truly many incredible stories of how God has used FBCFW through the years. The church became known as one of the first “Mega-Churches” in the country. There are literally thousands of churches and missionaries serving today as the result of the ministry of this church. The fact that the torch has been passed to us and future generations to carry on this legacy with the gospel is an overwhelming thought. May we be found faithful as past generations with the message of hope that is in Christ.

As a reminder, the layout of this Curriculum begins with a 7-day approach for both the teacher and the members to get the most from each study. We also acknowledge that teachers may have their own method for preparing the lessons and we encourage them to prepare in the way that makes them most effective in presenting God’s Word and the weekly lesson. We also encourage each teacher and member to use the suggested 7-day approach for each one’s own personal study and encouragement.

As we Celebrate 150 years, I am reminded of what Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:20: “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” May this be our prayer, life, and legacy as the FBC family for the next 150, or until Christ returns.

-Blessings
Pastor Don



Suggested Plan for Using this Bible Study Guide Effectively

Introduce

Day 1: Read and meditate on the Scripture, asking God to guide you throughout the week as you study His Word and allowing Him to speak to you through the Spirit. Read the **INTRODUCE** portion of the lesson commentary.

Instruct

Day 2: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and read the **INSTRUCT** portion of the lesson commentary. Concentrate on memorizing the focal verse for that particular week.

Day 3: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and answer the focal questions in the **INSTRUCT** portion of the lesson commentary.

Inspire

Day 4: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and begin thinking about tangible ways you can incorporate the principles you learned in your daily life. Read the **INSPIRE** portion of the lesson commentary.

Incorporate

Day 5: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and apply the theological principle that you learned from this week in a tangible way. Use the **INCORPORATE** portion of the lesson commentary to guide you.

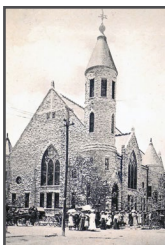
Day 6: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and in the journal section describe how God allowed you to apply this passage in a real and tangible way this week.

Day 7: Review the Scripture and share with others in your Connect Class on Sunday morning at 9:30am. Be ready to share your experience about how God allowed you to apply the lesson for that week.

Contents

October Lesson Plan

3



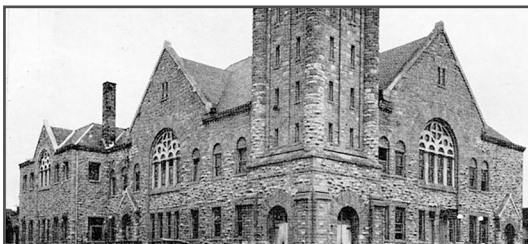
One of the earliest church buildings of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. Located at 3rd & Taylor, it was dedicated in September of 1890.

October 1, 2017

Celebrate our Heritage

[Genesis 12:1-9](#)

19



October 8, 2017

Celebrate God's Mighty Works

[Exodus 15:1-19](#)

35



October 15, 2017

Celebrate God's Mission

[Exodus 19:1-15](#)

51



October 22, 2017

Celebrate by Serving

[Joshua 24:14-28](#)

69



October 29, 2017

Celebrate God's Promises

[Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#)

October 1, 2017



One of the earliest church buildings of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. Located at 3rd & Taylor, it was dedicated in September of 1890.

Celebrate our Heritage

Genesis 12:1-9

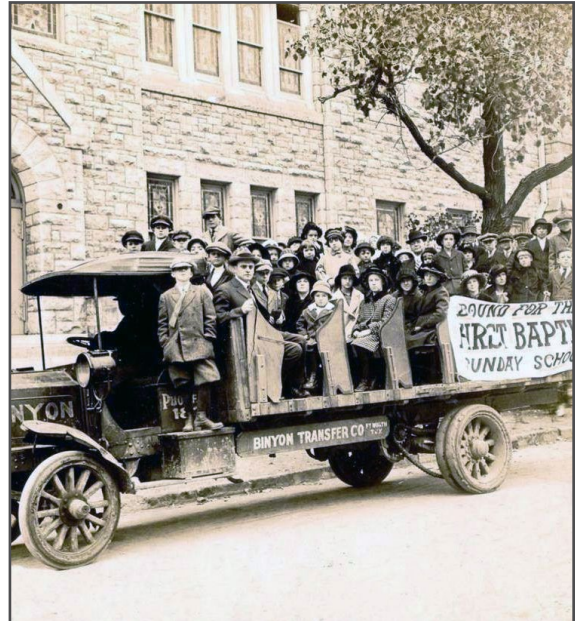
Focal Verse:

"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing."

Genesis 12:2

Introduce

As we celebrate our 150th anniversary as a church this month, we can certainly look back and see God’s hand at work in the lives of men and women who have impacted Fort Worth and the world. We are able to celebrate such a milestone for two reasons: 1) we serve a God who is faithful and loving and 2) faithful followers of Christ have expressed their love for Him by serving in this local body to which He has called them. Since 1867, our body of believers has seen dramatic changes in the secular world—not just in technological and educational advancements, but also in the evolution of culture often in a negative way. One thing, however, that hasn’t changed is God’s Word; in a constantly changing society where traditional values continue to erode and sinfulness and rebellion abound, God’s plan for eternal life and abundant living in holiness contained within the Bible remains undaunted.



Our church has withstood the test of time not because of human ingenuity or strength, but because we were founded upon the Rock of Jesus Christ and have trusted solely in His promises and followed the prescription for life in His Word.

Although we shouldn’t live in the past and try to re-create the “glory days,” we should celebrate our heritage and learn from it—both the positive and the negative. Those who have gone home before us after serving faithfully

Introduce

in this body have left us a great legacy to follow. We cannot simply rest in the shadow of their legacy, but we must remind ourselves that we too are leaving a legacy for future generations to follow until our Savior returns. Therefore, we must ask ourselves what kind of legacy do we intend to leave: Do we desire to leave a legacy of faithful service, righteous living, and obedient worship? If we do, then we must ask ourselves how well are we doing in each of these three categories. If we serve only on occasion, worship as a congregation only when we feel like it, share the gospel only when it's convenient, and merely sit on a pew and never become involved in ministry, our legacy will be one of fickleness, apathy, and often hypocrisy. First Baptist Church, however, has not become a great congregation because people sat in the pews for great sermons and teachings, but because they applied what they have learned from God's Word in practical ways. This week we will examine the legacy that Abraham left; God certainly blessed Abraham and was faithful to fulfill all that He promised, but Abraham also had responsibilities to the Lord that he must fulfill. We can recall all the ways that God has blessed our church and be reminded of His faithfulness to us; yet, a significant part of our heritage rests upon our relationship with God expressed through our holy character, obedient worship, and faithful service in all areas of our lives.

Key Question

What type of legacy are you leaving as you serve through our local body?

Genesis 12:1

THE REQUIREMENT:

As the book of beginnings, Genesis details not only the creation of the universe, but also God's plan for the redemption of mankind and the restoration of a relationship with Him. In [chapter 12](#), we meet a man by the name of Abram who lived among his family in Ur as they worshiped many other false gods ([Josh 24:2](#)). Seeking to establish a relationship with Abram, the Lord initiated a covenant with him which called him to worship and serve the only true and living God rather than the false gods of his forefathers. Therefore, the basis of God's covenant with

Abram centers on a relationship which requires a response on his part. To initiate the covenant, therefore, God instructed Abram **to get out of his country** and to leave his **family** at his **father's house** and go **to a land that** He **will show** him (v. 1). Thus, Abram was required to respond



with obedience, travel by faith, and surrender everything in his life to the care and trust of the Lord.

Through this covenant, we can observe two principles about leaving a legacy of service. First, we must have a relationship with the Lord based on faith through grace ([Eph 2:8-9](#)). This covenant with Abram parallels and looks forward to the gospel. In both cases, God initiated the

Instruct

covenant; Abram didn't seek God to make a bargain with Him, but instead God sought Abram—just like Jesus has sought us to have a relationship with Him. In addition, Abram entered the covenant by grace; he did nothing to earn it or deserve it, but God called him from a lifestyle of sin and idolatry in much the same way God in His grace and mercy has saved us through His Son; we've done nothing to merit our salvation, but God in His infinite love sent His Son to die in our place so that we might have the life that He offers us through His resurrection. Although Abram did nothing to earn his share in the covenant, it still required him to respond obediently and faithfully to heed God's call. In the same way, we can't earn our salvation, but we must respond by turning to follow Jesus and surrendering our lives to Him.

In what ways have you seen your life transformed after you responded to God's call to follow Him?

Question
1

Second, this covenant required Abram to trust God and respond faithfully to His call. God doesn't go into great detail about all the obstacles and trials Abram will face along the way; He also doesn't give Abram the exact coordinates of the land He will give, but instead simply says He **will show** him. God has asked Abram to trust Him and follow His guidance, giving up everything that was familiar to him and leaving the safety and comfort of his family. Abram, therefore, must learn to rely totally upon God and trust Him implicitly to provide for and protect him. Although God may not call us to a foreign land and ask us to abandon

everything that is familiar, He does ask us to trust Him and respond faithfully in whatever He asks. To respond faithfully, we must be willing to surrender everything we have and follow the one true God who has saved us.

In what ways has God asked you to trust Him and follow Him faithfully?

Question
2

Genesis 12:2-3

THE RESPONSIBILITY:

Often, when we think of God's covenant with Abram, we focus on everything he will receive from the Lord and we fail to recognize that both parties have responsibilities to fulfill. Naturally, God's responsibilities are much greater and more numerous, but nevertheless Abram also plays an integral role in the covenant. In examining verses

2-3, we should note that God has six promises or responsibilities while Abram has one. The first three lines of the covenant detail God's promises to Abram which will ultimately



span generations. First, God indicates that He **will make** Abram a **great nation**. As is the case with all three of these promises, it represents what God can do through His servant rather than what Abram could do for himself. On his own, Abram couldn't conquer the nations living in Canaan or even deal with Pharaoh in Egypt where he had fled during a

Instruct

famine. Only God could have made Abram a great nation. In the same way, we must realize that only God can take a broken human vessel like us and equip us to do great things for His name's sake. On our own, we cannot transform ourselves or even have strength and wisdom to minister and serve in the church. Only God can work through us and only He should receive the glory for what He has done.

In what ways have you seen God work in your life that could only be explained as His power and not yours?

Question
3

Second, God declares that He **will bless** Abram; as a more general statement, this phrase suggests that God will bless him in every way. God has indeed blessed His servant in many more ways than just wealth. Abram was blessed to have many possessions and great wealth, but he was also blessed with strength to defeat a coalition of kings who had taken his nephew Lot captive, with provision and protection during a time of famine, and with an heir from his own body at the age of 100. Likewise, God has blessed us in many intangible ways today—whether through family relationships, joy, peace, health, wisdom, and so forth. Third, God promises to **make** Abram's **name great**. In Proverbs 22:1, Scripture admonishes us that “a good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.” When God promises to **make** his **name great**, He is referring to the legacy that Abram would leave and how people in future generations would view him. Although he lived nearly 4,000 years ago, people today still hear and talk about Abram's faith; even Jesus lauded him as an example of someone

who surrendered all and had faith in the Lord so that it showed through his obedience. Our desire ought to be like Abram to leave a legacy as a faithful example of what God can do; we ought not seek a **great name** to bring honor to ourselves, but to have future generations pointed to a relationship with Christ by seeing the way that He has transformed our character.

What does it mean to have a *great name* in terms of our relationship with Christ? What should this look like in our lives?

Question
4

Sandwiched in the middle of God's promises to Abram is his one responsibility. Abram, therefore, is tasked to **be a blessing** to all the nations and people around him. Chiefly, Abram should function as an ambassador who pointed the nations to a relationship with the Lord and an advocate that they might turn to Him from their wicked ways. At times, like with Pharaoh and Abimelech, he failed at this task; at other times, like on the behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah, he interceded that God might not destroy them for their wickedness—but even then, they refused to repent and cease from their wicked ways. Like Abram, we still have the responsibility to point others into a relationship with the Lord through Christ. Although social ministries and meeting the physical needs of people have great value, the greatest way that we can bless people is by sharing with them how to have



BLESSED
TO BE A
BLESSING

eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thus, we ought actively to seek ways that we can share this message of hope and change with those around us.

In what ways can we be a blessing to those around us?

Question
4

After Abram receives his lone charge in this covenant, God lists three more areas in which He will work in his life. The next two items describe how God will interact with those around Abram: for **those who bless him**, the Lord **will bless**, but for **those who curse** him, God **will curse** them (v. 3). In essence, God functions as an agent for Abram to offer protection and security. This does not mean that nothing bad will ever happen to Abram or his family in this sinful and fallen world, but that God has a higher plan and purpose for his servant that no one or nothing can thwart. Because we live in a fallen world, “bad” things will often happen to “good” people—not always because of their own sin, but because the willful disobedience of mankind has destroyed God’s perfect creation. However, because Abram followed the Lord who has a plan for his life, he has nothing to fear and can trust in His provision and protection alone. For those who have a relationship with Christ, we also have nothing to fear, because, like Abram, we have hope of eternal life in Jesus.

Finally, God notes that **all the families of the earth shall be blessed through** him. In reality, this promise looks 2000 years into the future when God would send His Son through Abram’s descendants so that He could reconcile the world to Him. For this reason, Jesus sought to save

all nations and intercede on our behalf through His death so that we might receive the blessing of eternal life. Thus, part of Abram's legacy through his obedience was that God used his faithfulness to impact the world in a dramatic way. On his own, Abram could have never offered such a blessing or transformation to the world, but God through him fulfilled His promise so that all who turn to Him could have eternal life.

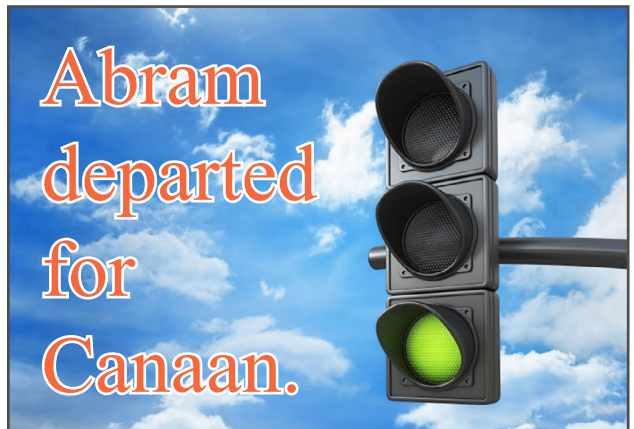
In what ways does Jesus fulfill God's promise to bless all the families of the earth through Abram?

Question
5

Genesis 12:4-6

THE RESPONSE:

As the covenant or contract between God and Abram comes to a close, it becomes time for Abram to respond—that is to demonstrate his faith by his actions. God had given Abram the command to **get out of his country** and now he responded obediently by departing (v. 4). At **seventy-five**, he packed his things, assembled his family, including his **wife Sarai** and his nephew **Lot**, and **departed Haran** for the **land of Canaan** (v. 5). Many times we may skip over this part, having focused on the covenant itself; however, this section is just as important as the covenant itself. As we learned in the first section, the covenant was given by grace, but participation in it was outwardly



Instruct

expressed through obedience—not earning it, but showing that he had accepted it.

As we look back on our lives, just as Abram did, we ought to see evidence of the fruit we bore in Christ, the obedient choices that we made, and the transformation that He produced. Although we will still make mistakes just as Abram did, we should observe a pattern of growth and maturity. The evidence of our faith manifested in our lives, therefore, gives us assurance and confirmation that we belong to God through a relationship with Christ. Satan, however, often causes us to doubt our relationship in hopes of derailing our progress and stifling the way God uses us. As we examine our lives, we can have confidence in God when we observe the transformation which produces obedience; therefore, we ought not be insecure and doubting if we have turned from our sins and we see evidence of God working in and through our lives. On the other hand, if we have never truly repented and tried to have a relationship with the Lord apart from Jesus through religious ritual and we don't see any fruit or evidence of change in our lives, then we need to consult God, ask for forgiveness, and ask Him to dwell in our hearts. When it comes to salvation, God has not given us a spirit of doubt and uncertainty, but one of assurance whereby we can look back at our lives and see His mighty hand at work.

As you look back on your life, what are some areas of transformation and faithful obedience that you can point to as evidence of your relationship with Christ?

Question
6

THE REMINDER:

As Abram arrived **in the land**, he found the **Canaanites** already there (v. 6), but **the Lord appeared** to him to remind and confirm the promises that He had made (v. 7). Therefore, God reminded him that He would **give this land to his descendants**; in [chapter 15](#), God explains that Abram's descendants will dwell in the land and then be enslaved in Egypt for 430 years, but then be freed to come and possess this very land. Abram, however, would not see the fulfillment of this promise while he was still alive, but even so he trusted God and believed that He would keep His word. So there Abram **built an altar** which served as a reminder of God's faithfulness as well as a place to worship Him.

When he arrived in Canaan, Abram continued to follow God's guidance as evidenced by going where the Lord led him. From **Moreh**, he traveled to **the mountain east of Bethel** and **pitched his tent** there. Once again, he constructed an **altar** to serve as a reminder to future generations and a place to proclaim the worship of **the Lord**. As this section closes, we still observe Abram following the Lord, moving toward **the South** (v. 9). This covenant, therefore, with God wasn't just a one-time commitment, but it was the start of a daily walk with the Lord whereby Abram surrendered his life and cultivated a daily relationship of dependence upon **the Lord**. In our lives, we ought to display this same type of faith and devotion in the Lord each day; God will provide for our needs and direct us if we give Him the opportunity by fully surrendering our lives. When God provides for us, therefore, we ought to express our appreciation with daily opportunities to worship and praise Him—for no

Instruct

one else in this whole world cares for us as much or can provide such an abundant life for us.

In what ways do we rely upon the Lord in our daily lives? How ought we express our worship to Him?

Question
7

Inspire

Abram by being obedient to God's call has left a legacy that every one of us should follow. He wasn't great because of what he accomplished on his own, but because he turned from the worship of false gods and allowed the Lord to transform and guide his life. To leave a lasting legacy, we too must surrender our lives to Christ and follow His leadership. Although we may have forgotten many of the names of people who have served faithfully in bygone years in this church, none of us would be here today if they hadn't made sacrifices and heeded God's call, allowing Him to work in and through their lives. Our church is not merely a great church because of the sacrifice of these people, but because we serve a God who is infinitely great and gracious; therefore, First Baptist Church exists and continues because God is faithful to finish that work which He started so many years ago.

As a body of believers who have a relationship with Christ, we have the responsibility to rid anything from our lives that hinders growth in Him and to be a blessing by sharing the gospel with those around us. Therefore, our purpose as a church is to point others to Christ daily. Each day pray for opportunities to share the gospel and be faithful to respond

to the chances that God gives us. Be intentional about serving, sharing, and praising God for the things that He has done. Our focus should never be on our own success, but what God has done through us. When we focus on God, we can weather the storms of life and we can do the things that are seemingly impossible. A legacy without God is one of despair, hopelessness, and ultimate failure, but a legacy which points others to God through daily devotion, obedient worship, and faithful service has a lasting impact on the world because it points people to the only One who can give life through a relationship with His Son.

Incorporate

In what ways have you seen God work through our church? In what ways do you see Him working right now?

In what ways should we as a church have a great name so that we bring honor to God in the greater Fort Worth area?

How can we as a church be a blessing to this community?

Why should we remind future generations of God's promises?

October 8, 2017



*Celebrate God's
Mighty Works
Exodus 15:1-19*

Focal Verse:

"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

Exodus 15:11

Introduce

Over 150 years, our church has repeatedly seen the mighty works of the Lord in the transformation of the community around us. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a lawless part of town with rampant prostitution, gambling, alcoholism, and violence grew unfettered in downtown where the Fort Worth Convention Center now stands. The Texas Historical

Commission has erected a sign there commemorating the district known as Hell's Half Acre. On the plaque, the description references "a 1906 newspaper calling the district Fort Worth's den of sin and refuge of criminals." The leaders of the city overlooked the



degradation in this area because it was profitable revenue and a source of great personal income from bribery. In addition, many of the city leaders and businessmen frequented the area for personal reasons as well. With the arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railway, the district continued to expand and Fort Worth became a tourist destination for all types of people on the frontier. The area drew infamous gamblers from Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp to outlaws like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

Although some feeble attempts were made to clean up the area, nothing seemed truly to work as the violence and crime began to transcend the borders of the district. In 1911, J. Frank Norris inspired by the Lord led an

Introduce

offensive to rid the city of this district through the transformative power of the gospel. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can so thoroughly cleanse the hearts of men as to overcome such sin and degradation. This change, however, didn't come without a high cost to our congregation at the time. Because of the financial windfall, the city leaders and business elite ardently opposed any effort that would collapse the district; therefore, they personally attacked and physically threatened both J. Frank Norris and First Baptist Church. During this period, the church suffered many arson attacks, including one which totally destroyed the sanctuary on February 4, 1912, and hired assassins shot at Norris on several occasions. Undaunted, the church continued to preach the truth and so many began a relationship with Christ that the district disappeared in 1919. Consequently, Norris promptly celebrated the downfall of Hell's Half Acre with a mock funeral procession, giving the Lord the glory for this miraculous work. God had accomplished what man had failed to do by using members of this church. Our history, therefore, should spur us to the same action of taking on society with the gospel so that we can see the transformation of men and women and the city of Fort Worth and the county of Tarrant fundamentally changed from sinfulness to righteousness in the Lord. Just as our church has experienced the mighty works of God amidst the opposition of the world, so did Israel whom the Lord freed from Egypt and delivered from the greatest army in the world at the time. As a result, Moses and the people began to praise God spontaneously in a song for His preservation, protection, provision, and promises. As we celebrate the heritage of our church, let us celebrate the mighty works of the Lord. Even

though God has accomplished great works over 100 years ago through the men and women of this church, the greatest days still remain ahead only if we trust the Lord, follow Him obediently, and give Him the honor and the glory for that which He will do.

Key
Question

In what ways have you seen the mighty works of God either in your life personally or through our church?

Instruct

Exodus 15:1-2

CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESERVATION:

Immediately following the unprecedented victory at the Red Sea, the defeat of the mighty Egyptian army, and the deliverance from 430 years of bondage, **Moses** and the **children of Israel** break into spontaneous praise to celebrate the work of **the Lord**. The **song of** praise begins with an emphatic call to worship (v. 1). The English phrase **I will sing to the Lord** doesn't really capture the essence of the Hebrew which has the connotation of ***I must sing*** or even ***let me sing***. Because they have seen the mighty hand of God in their deliverance, they feel compelled to offer praise to God and glorify His holy **name**. Having seen the plagues in Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea, they can't help but to respond with praise and worship for what they have experienced. At work every day in our lives, the Lord deserves our praise—not just because of the “miraculous” works He performs, but also for the way that He preserves and sustains us each day. We should certainly celebrate the monumental events where the Lord acts, but we must not forget the many blessings He grants us

daily. Therefore, let us continually have the praises of the Lord on our lips and in our minds.

When was the last time that God did something so wonderful and miraculous in your life that you responded with instantaneous praise?

Question
1

Through this **song**, Moses and the people direct their praise toward **the Lord** which is the personal name that He had given at the burning bush—“I am that I am” or Yahweh ([Exod 3:14](#); see also [Exod 15:3](#)). Like Moses who lived in a polytheistic culture that served many “gods,” we too live in a society that has very different ideas about what and who God is. When we give **the Lord** praise and testify to His greatness, we must point them to the one true and living God—Yahweh. We must clearly direct our praise to the one who redeemed us by sending His Son who became flesh to defeat sin and death through His perfect sacrifice.

Luck, circumstances, or

self-ability aren’t the source of our blessings and triumphs, but **the Lord** alone is and only He deserves our worship. Therefore, we must be careful to place the focus on Christ rather than having a spotlight on us and our abilities.

In the second and subsequent lines of the **song**, they announce their reasons for celebrating. Stating that the Lord **has triumphed gloriously**,



they extol Him for the victory at the Red **Sea** in which Pharaoh and his army drowned as the Lord released the waves to crash over them. Beginning in [verse 4](#), Moses will detail this feat more, so for now we will focus on three areas of their praise which demonstrate the Lord's preservation of His people: **God's** power, the **salvation** He offers, and the relationship that He initiates (v. 2). First, they praise **the Lord** for being their **strength and song**. The strength of the Lord, therefore, should be our source of rejoicing because He is greater than all our problems; nothing is too great for Him to handle or too difficult to resolve. No matter what we must endure in this life, God is greater and can deliver us in the midst of any difficulty.



*God's grace is greater
than all our sin, shame,
discouragement, or fear.*

Dr. David Jeremiah

In what ways have you seen God act miraculously in your life to demonstrate His strength and power over your problems?

Question
2

Second, they praise God as the source of their **salvation**. Literally, God rescued them from certain death at the hands of the Egyptians. Yet, the Lord has done a much greater work than merely saving us from physical danger; He has saved us from spiritual death and given us eternal life through Christ. What difference would it have made if God had saved them from slaughter only to die a spiritual death because they had no hope of eternal life? On the contrary, we ought to rejoice because in Christ God has accomplished both. Finally, they **praise** Him because He is their **God** in a

Instruct

long line of succession from their **fathers**. In other words, God had a personal relationship not only with their forefathers, but with them also. Because we can have a personal relationship with the Lord, we can trust Him to meet all our needs, equip us to participate in service, and empower us to be His witnesses.

In what ways does God demonstrate His personal care for you as His child?

Question
3

Exodus 15:3-12

CELEBRATE GOD'S PROTECTION:

The situation looked hopeless as Israel peered over her shoulder to see the mighty Egyptian army traveling through the desert on its chariots to avenge the death of their first-born. Israel had nowhere to go. Before them laid the Red Sea, to the north the Mediterranean Sea, to the west the desolate Sahara Desert, and to the southwest the Egyptian army was in pursuit. On her own, Israel could have done nothing to avert disaster, but they served **the Lord** who could do the impossible and achieve victory in the most hopeless circumstance. Therefore, the song describes Him as **a man of war**—that is a warrior



(v. 3). As a warrior, the Lord doesn't simply issue commands, but He leads them into battle and even fights on their behalf. Often, we may feel alone in the titanic battles of life; if we have a relationship with Christ, however,

we know that He's not merely "there" beside us, but He is fighting the battle for us. Although we should walk responsibly with the Lord daily and not turn to Him only when we have no other option, we can rest assured that He is fighting our spiritual battles—and for that we should trust in Him alone.

In what ways have you seen God fighting on your behalf?

Question
4

After proclaiming that God fights on their behalf, the song now recalls the specific way that He fought for Israel at the Red Sea. Although this song doesn't follow the events surrounding the parting of the Red Sea in chronological order, for the sake of our own study we will group and discuss them in the historical order that they occur. With poetic language, the song personifies how the Lord stopped the flow of water on the Red Sea and allowed Israel to pass on dry ground. The hymnist depicts **a blast** from God's **nostrils** pushing the **waters** into a pile and making them **stand upright like a heap** (v. 8). In so doing, it exposed the **depths** of the ocean so that Israel could pass without hindrance. In the actual account, God sends a "strong east wind" overnight which prevented the water from flowing and allowed them to pass "on dry ground" ([Exod 14:21-22](#)); thus, Israel passed in between the water of the Red Sea which surrounded them on either side.

In Context



personifies (v.) /pərˈsɒnəˌfaɪ/ – using human attributes or characteristics to describe natural phenomenon produced by God.

Instruct

Next, the song recalls how Pharaoh and **his army** pursued them to enact vengeance upon them—their **desire shall be satisfied** (v. 9). Having endured all the plagues until the tenth in which every first-born died, the Egyptians basically kicked Israel out of their land and even enriched them by giving of their wealth ([Exod 12:36](#)). However, now they had a change of heart and they wanted to retaliate against Israel, so they sought to **overtake** them, rob them (i.e. **divide their spoil**), and **destroy** them by the **sword**. After Israel had safely crossed, Pharaoh and **his army** attempted to follow, but the Lord collapsed the water over them. The song trumpets that **the chariots** and officers (**captains**) alike all **drowned** (v. 4). It continues to depict the **army** being **covered** by the **depths** and **sinking to the bottom like a stone** (v. 5). Just as God had prevented the water from flowing to allow Israel to pass, in the same way He used it to destroy the Egyptian **army** (v. 10). His **wind blew** the water over them and they **sank like lead** (v. 10). Such a feat could only be explained as **the hand** of the Lord (v. 12). The Lord works in miraculous ways in our lives daily; we must remain aware of His mighty **hand** so that we can glorify Him and point others into a relationship with Him.



How should you use the miraculous things the Lord has done in your life to point others to a relationship with Him?

Question
5

Mingled throughout this account are expressions of gratitude for God's **greatness** and His protection. The song exalts God for His **glorious power** which has **dashed the enemy in pieces** (v. 6). Therefore, His **excellence** and **greatness** is beyond compare (vv. 7a, 11). This leads to a series of rhetorical questions: **who is like the Lord, who** is glorious or holy like He, and who alone deserves respect and **praises** for the **wonders** that He has done (v. 11). All these questions expect the answer "no one." God has **overthrown** Israel's enemies and His wrath burned against them **like stubble** (v. 7b). Those who oppose God and those who willfully disobey Him cannot stand against Him and one day will face justice. Although sin and trouble may abound in this world, it has already been defeated by God who will rescue His people and give them eternal life through His Son. The protection of the Lord supersedes anything that may happen to us here on earth. Just because something goes awry in life, we have health problems or injuries, or we face persecution or physical danger, it doesn't mean that God is not protecting us. On the contrary, regardless of these things that may happen, God has us securely in His hand and nothing or no one can snatch us out (John 10:28).

Why should we view God's protection in terms of our eternal security and not simply things that happen to us here on earth?

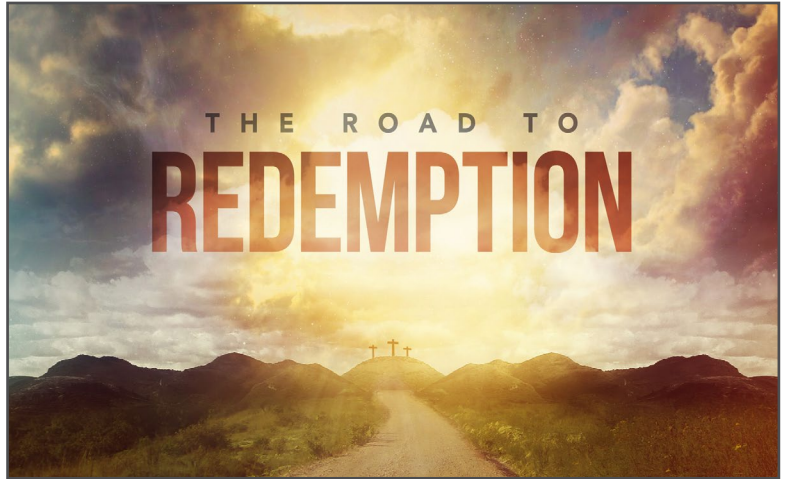
Question
6

Exodus 15:13-16

CELEBRATE GOD'S PROMISES:

Through the protection of His people, the Lord has demonstrated His mercy and redemption (v. 13). The Hebrew word translated **mercy** is a

difficult one to interpret into English. Although it can mean **mercy** on the most-basic level, it carries with it more the idea of God being faithful to His promises; thus, it envisions God’s faithfulness displayed in the love and **mercy** that He offers both through redemption (v. 13) and **salvation** (v. 2). On a literal level, God **redeemed** Israel from slavery in Egypt by acting on their behalf. No longer was Israel bound in slavery to Egypt, but the Lord had freed them to become His people. As we have seen, God personally fought on their behalf to save them from the aggressive Egyptian army and numerous pitfalls that they would encounter



along the way, but ultimately He would deliver them safely to His **holy habitation**—that is the Promised Land and in particular Jerusalem. The ideas of redemption and **salvation**, however, point to a more lasting relationship with Jesus Christ. Just as God freed Israel from being physically enslaved, He has freed every one of us who has a relationship with His Son from the bondage of sin ([Rom 6:18](#)). Through His death on the cross, Jesus **redeemed** us by paying the penalty for our sin; no longer are we enslaved to sin, but we belong to the Father as His children because Christ paid the price to enable us to have that relationship. Just as Israel stood at the Red Sea without human hope, we stand figuratively

at the Jordan River eternally separated from the Lord because of our sin. When all things look impossible, God made a way for Israel to cross the sea and escape harm so that they could dwell forever with Him. In the same way, God has made a way through Christ for us to cross the Jordan and spend eternity in the New Jerusalem—that is heaven—with Him. Israel had no other way to escape the pursuing army, except through the miraculous intervention of the Lord; we have no way to escape sin and its consequences, except through Christ. Praise God for being faithful to His promises for He has **redeemed** and saved us by His mighty hand.

How do you praise God for your redemption and salvation?

Question
7

As Israel continues her march toward the Promised Land, the inhabitants who dwell in the land of **Canaan** will hear the testimony of the Lord's redemption and **salvation** of His people (v. 14). In one facet, these nations will **fear** and **sorrow will take hold of** them. Because they have refused to repent and turn to the Lord, they will realize that no one can stand against Him and they are doomed without any hope. Having heard of the Lord working through His people to free them from Egypt and defeat the Amalekites, they will now see first-hand His mighty power displayed on their behalf as they take possession of the Promised Land. From the citizens in **Philistia**, to those of **Moab** and **Edom**, and even **all the inhabitants of Canaan** will be destroyed and **melt away** (vv. 15-16a). **Fear** will grip the nations and immobilize them like **a stone** so that they become despondent, indecisive, and unable to act; in some cases, they won't know what to do, but in others they will simply cower

Instruct

and give up without a fight. In this way, the children of Israel will **pass over** them without even a fight so that the nations will know with certainty the power of the only one true and living God. When we submit to the Lord and allow Him to work in our lives, those around us will see the miraculous demonstration of His power.

Why is it important to submit to the Lord so that He can display His power through us? In what way should we use this to testify to others?

Question
8

Exodus 15:17-19

CELEBRATE GOD'S PROVISION:

The song ends by looking forward to God's provision for His people. Primarily this anticipates the long-awaited fulfillment of the Promised Land and dwelling in the blessings of the Lord. Describing the giving of the land, the song heralds that the Lord will **bring them and plant them in the mountain of His inheritance** (v. 17). There where the Lord has established the place of His **dwelling**, that is the temple in Jerusalem, He will **reign forever** as His people also dwell in His presence (v. 18). The people can rest assured that God will fulfill His promises because they have seen His mighty hand at work in their deliverance at the Red Sea where they passed on **dry land** and God destroyed **Pharaoh** and his army (v. 19). Likewise, we can also have confidence that God will provide for us because we have seen the way He has fulfilled His promises in our lives. When we trust God, surrender our lives, and follow His direction, the Lord

has promised to provide for all our needs—we may not be wealthy or powerful, but God can take the poor, the humble, and the weak and accomplish mighty things which glorify Himself. If God did that with a weak, enslaved nation such as Israel, He can surely do it with us collectively today for those of us who have a relationship with Him.

In what ways have you seen God's provision in your life?

Question
9

Inspire

Although we focused on a tumultuous period of our church's history in the introduction that led to great change and spiritual renewal, we have seen God's hand at work in every decade and every year of our existence. As a body of believers, we must trust the Lord and allow Him to use us to work together to accomplish the mighty things that display His power and majesty. Certainly, God used J. Frank Norris in a special way just as He used Moses to lead Israel, but it's not primarily about a key figure who receives glory for his spirituality and ingenuity. Rather, God works on our behalf and through His people; each one of us has a responsibility to surrender so that God can work through us. God does use dynamic leaders to shepherd His people, but He uses His people collectively to change the world.

Even though some secular people may try to dismiss the work of the Lord and disparage His people as fanatics and lunatics, they cannot argue with the results of transformation in their lives. People can say First Baptist Church is weak and believes in fairy tales, but they cannot argue

Inspire

that Hell's Half Acre was closed. They may dismiss Moses and Israel as a figment of imagination, but they can't dispute the evidence of weapons, chariots, and horse and human remains submerged at the bottom of the Red Sea. People can't dispute the lives changed through the gospel and those who have been redeemed from death unto life. As we celebrate God's mighty works through His people and our church, we must ask ourselves two questions: 1) Have I been redeemed and do I have a part in the inheritance of eternal life He offers; 2) if so, then in what way will God use me to participate in the great work that He is doing for His name's sake right here in Fort Worth?

Incorporate

Spend time in prayer thanking God for saving and redeeming you. In what ways is God's redemption of you evident in your life?

Incorporate

In what ways are you assured of God's protection in your life, i.e. that you can't lose your salvation? List Scripture that demonstrates that once we are saved, then we remain saved and persevere until the end.

What promises of God can we celebrate as a church having seen Him move in a mighty way? How can we use the fulfillment of these promises to make the community around us aware of the might of the Lord that we serve?

October 15, 2017



*Celebrate
God's Mission
Exodus 19:1-15*

Focal Verse:

"And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Exodus 19:6

Introduce

Although many things have changed over the 150-year history of our congregation, our mission and purpose have remained the same. On the front cover of this booklet, we have printed our mission statement as a reminder of our purpose as this local body of believers: "The purpose of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is to **introduce** people into a loving relationship with Jesus, **instruct** them in spiritual growth through God's Word, **inspire** them to serve for God's kingdom, and **incorporate** them in authentic worship to glorify God." In 1934 our church published a pamphlet: "The Church that is Different and Why? What the First Baptist Church Believes." It discusses twelve characteristics that differentiated First Baptist Church from everyone else and allowed us to fulfill the Great Commission ([Matt 28:19-20](#)) and impact the world with the gospel, seeing the Lord move in a mighty way in our community.

Although published eighty-three years ago, these characteristics are still valid and should be practiced today. For the sake of this lesson, we will condense the twelve characteristics into five key areas in which God has used our church to impact and transform the city of Fort Worth. First, as a church, we must not compromise our faith and participate or condone worldly or sinful activities, but instead we must stand united in condemning sin and pointing people



Introduce

to Christ. Second, we must be united with one purpose in the body: “the only mission of the church is to teach the Scriptures and win souls.” As the largest church in the United States at the time, thousands of people came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior because we focused on the proclamation of the gospel and evangelistic efforts throughout the city and nation. Just like on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts, God has done a miraculous work through this church: “Great meetings held by the pastor, like the meeting held at the First Baptist Church, San Antonio, which resulted in 810 additions to the church, and at Houston which resulted in 1010 additions, the meeting in Dallas 1928, which resulted in 636 additions, and numerous independent tabernacle meetings which resulted in new members—three hundred to seven hundred in each meeting.” God worked mightily through this body because we maintained a proper perspective of glorifying Him by emphasizing our commitment to evangelism through our faithfulness to the teaching of Scripture.

As the 1934 brochure continues, it describes how we ought to be founded upon the truth contained in the Bible, but we must use innovative ways and methods to reach the populace. Thus, the third key to success is that the church focused on Scripture and its



truth rather than popular psychology or a socially acceptable message which the world more readily desires to hear. Fourth, our church found innovative ways to use modern inventions to reach the world with the gospel; for example, we were the first church with a bus ministry and the first church with a comprehensive radio ministry, including our own broadcast station. In the same way, we need to be innovative in using modern inventions, such as the Internet and social media, to reach the culture with the gospel. Finally, people in the church were “enthusiastic” about their relationship with Christ and everyone used his or her spiritual gift to glorify the Lord through their faithful service.

In reality, the secret of this church’s success comes from the Lord working through our obedient and sacrificial service to draw people unto Himself. In [Exodus 19](#), God identifies Israel as His ambassador—that is the people who would represent Him and through whom He would work to draw all nations unto Himself. Therefore, He calls Israel to stand as holy and not compromise herself by following the secular values and attitudes of the people around them. Instead, they were to be set apart with the holy purpose of testifying to the greatness of the Lord and pointing the nations into a relationship with the one and only true God so that they may turn from their idolatrous sin and have eternal life. Just like Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament, we have the same purpose and mission: to introduce people into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the uncompromised truth contained in the Scripture.

Key
Question

How are you participating in the mission that God has given us as a church?

Exodus 19:1-4

REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE:

Three months after leaving **Egypt**, **Israel** arrived in the **Wilderness of Sinai** where they would camp for a little more than ten months while God initiated His covenant with them ([Num 10:11](#)). Over the course of these **three** months, God provided for His people in miraculous ways—including water for them when they had arrived at **Rephidim** ([Exod 17:6](#)). At **Rephidim**, the desert region to the east of Mt. Sinai (Horeb), God instructed Moses to strike a rock through which He would provide water to sustain the people. Although **Israel** was already in close proximity to Mt. Sinai, the Lord moved them closer to camp at the base of the **mountain** where He would once again reveal Himself in a mighty way by giving them the Law and making a covenant with them as His people ([Exod 19:2](#)).



As **Israel camped** at the base of the **mountain**, Moses ascended the peak so that **the Lord** could directly communicate with him and give him instructions to relay to the people in preparation for the giving of the Law (v. 3). God begins by instructing Moses to remind the **children of Israel** what He has already done for them lest they forget their source of salvation, strength, and sustenance. As humans, many of us have

short-term memories in which we tend to forget things easily. Some of us walk from one room to the other and forget the reason why we did. Others of us are so overwhelmed with sensory information and thoughts that we forget what we wanted to say, so we have learned to blurt out our thoughts the moment we think of them lest we forget. In the same way, Israel had a problem with her short-term memory. The people had **seen what the Lord did to the Egyptians**, but they so easily forgot and turned to their own wisdom and strength for help.

In what ways do people today have short-term memories of the work of the Lord in their lives?

Question
1

Yet, the Lord tells Moses to remind the people that He **bore** them **on eagle's wings** and **brought** them unto Himself (v. 4). Figuratively, Israel took flight in a rush to leave Egypt after the Pharaoh had expelled them because of the death of the first-born. God, not Israel on her own power, had delivered His people from the grips of slavery just as He had promised His servant Abraham 430 years earlier when He made a covenant with him. Thus, the image of the **eagle's wings** depicts God's deliverance and provision for His people; the people didn't take flight like an eagle, but God **bore** them or carried them **on eagle's wings**. In every way, God protected and provided for His people in such a miraculous and even undeserved way. Even today, God continues to protect and provide for His people. Although we may encounter troubles and hardships in this life, God will deliver us through them. We may not always be delivered *from* the hardships, but for those of us who have a relationship with Jesus Christ we will be delivered *through* them. If we

Instruct

aren't careful, we can go through life and fail to recognize the ways in which God has provided for us or forget the ways that we have seen God work in our lives. Let us learn from the mistakes of Israel and let us recall God's mighty works, but also offer a praise of testimony so that others come to have a relationship with Him through His Son to whom we give all honor and glory.

What are some things you can do to help you remember to praise God for working in your life?

Question
2

Exodus 19:5-6

REPRESENT GOD AS HIS AMBASSADORS:

Verses 5-6 are not only the most important verses in this passage, but they are among the most important in all Scripture because they outline God's mission and plan for His people. Although God had not yet given Moses the Law, He is already preparing the people for its reception by outlining their responsibility. God delineates three responsibilities for Israel in these verses: 1) they should live obediently as His people, 2) they should represent Him to all creation, and 3) they should be set apart as a **holy** people. As God's **special treasure**, they should **obey** His **voice** and **keep** His **covenant** (v. 5).



Traditional location of Mount Sinai.

We must understand that Israel did not become God’s **special treasure** because they obeyed—for just as salvation as God’s people in the New Testament is by grace, so also has God made Israel His **treasure** by grace. Instead, the outcome of Israel’s position as God’s **special treasure** should produce obedience to His covenant. Therefore, we obey God because we love Him and have a relationship with Him rather than attempting to earn something that we could never possibly earn. In addition, we ought to obey God because the boundaries that He establishes protect us and allow us to have a productive and abundant life for the purpose to which He has called us. For this reason, when we obey the Lord and submit to His will, it allows us to represent Him as His ambassadors or **priests**.

How does obedience to the Lord lead you to have a more abundant life?

Question
3

Second, God designates Israel as a **Kingdom of priests** (v. 6). As **priests**, Israel would have three basic functions: they would represent God, communicate His message to the nations, and serve as an example in the way that they lived. When God created the first man, He created him in His image and charged him with the care for all creation as His representative ([Gen 1:27](#)). Therefore, God isn’t issuing something totally foreign to Israel’s understanding, but He’s reminding them of their God-given mission that was ordained at the foundation of the world. To the world around us, we represent God by interceding for them through prayer; we have a responsibility to petition God on behalf of those who do not have a relationship with Him and ask the Lord to give us opportunities for us to evangelize them with the gospel. Although we can’t “save” people by proxy praying for them, we have an obligation to

Instruct

intercede on their behalf so that despite their hard hearts they may be receptive to the message of the gospel. In addition, we also represent God when we serve people by meeting their needs. When we graciously act with benevolence to meet the physical and emotional needs of the world even when they are opposed to the Lord, we represent His unconditional and patient love to them.



Not only as **priests** does Israel serve as God's representatives, but they also communicate His message to others. Every week, the pastor and ministerial staff communicate the Word of God whether in Connect Classes or the worship service to the membership of the church. However, the role of the church is to comprehend and speak the Word of God to the society around us; communicating Scripture, therefore, is not merely the responsibility of the staff, but is the God-given mission of the whole church. Consequently, the entire church should be cognizant of opportunities to teach the Bible and share the gospel; therefore, it becomes incumbent upon us that, like Israel, we know the content of Scripture as well as we are obedient to follow it. This obedience leads to the last function of **priests** as being an example in the way that they live. They are not to be hypocrites who repel people from the Lord because they lack integrity

and live willfully disobedient lives, but instead they are to be an example as a **holy nation** who abides by the principles in God's Word.

How should we function as a Kingdom of priests right here in Fort Worth?

Question
4

Third, the Lord sets Israel apart as a **holy nation** with a purpose of being used by Him to draw all nations into a relationship with Himself (v. 6). If we are set apart, we need to have a purpose; it becomes aimless to be set apart if we don't have a purpose of pointing others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, everything that we do as a church and people of God must have the purpose of glorifying God by introducing people into a relationship with His Son through whom they can have deliverance from sin. As a **holy nation**, Israel was to live within the boundaries that God had established so that He could bless them and they could become a conduit of His blessings to the nations around them. We aren't to be a bank vault that merely hoards and stores the blessings that God has graciously given us, but we are to be an ATM machine which freely dispenses blessings so that God may reveal Himself through our lives and others may see a difference in our lives and desire the security and salvation that we have in Christ.

In what ways has God set us apart as a church to draw others to Himself?

Question
5

Exodus 19:7-9

RESOLVE TO FOLLOW GOD:

Having received instruction from God, Moses gathered the leaders

Instruct

(elders) together and repeated **the words which the Lord** had **commanded** him (v. 7). After hearing their responsibilities from the **elders**, the people enthusiastically affirmed that they would **do all that the Lord** had **spoken** (v. 8). To have a successful life and ministry, we must resolve to follow God and let nothing or no one else distract us from our God-given mission. Although Israel makes this emphatic declaration to follow the Lord, their history demonstrates that they often failed in their obedience—for they often turned to worship idols, they failed to follow God’s directives, and they complained incessantly. When we commit to follow the Lord, we must ensure that we completely surrender our lives to Him and act with integrity—not merely offering lip service to Him, but offering our lives as a living sacrifice of praise ([Rom 12:1-2](#)). At times, like Israel, we may fail in our mission because we become distracted, but we must be quick to repent and get back on track by asking God to help us focus on the task to which He has called us.

What are some steps that we can take to help us remember our covenant with God and not become distracted by the world around us?

Question
6

In-Depth Information



In verse 9, God indicates that He came to Moses in a **thick cloud** so that **the people** may know Moses speaks on behalf of the Lord and **believe** that he has accurately handled the Word he was given. In our day,

In-Depth Information—continued



God has given us His revelation in the sixty-six books of the Bible; His Word is without error and contains absolute truth. Just as God appeared in the **cloud** to Israel, He has given us His Word so that we may be able to judge events, actions, and speech of others to discern whether or not they communicate the truth. Therefore, we must judge the accuracy of what we hear, see, and believe by the Bible and nothing else. Experiences may confirm the truth, but experiences don't dictate the truth—especially if they cannot be corroborated by the Bible.

Exodus 19:10-11

READY YOURSELF TO MEET WITH GOD:

Before Moses ascends to the mountain to receive the Law, the Lord prepares Israel for this special occasion so that they might **be ready on the third day** when He visibly appeared on **Mount Sinai** (v. 11). He tells Moses to instruct the people to **consecrate** themselves and **wash their clothes** (v. 10). The word **consecrate** comes from the Hebrew word which means to make holy; thus, they are to examine their lives, asking God to cleanse their hearts of any sin and rebellion and surrender totally unto Him (see [Psalm 51:10](#)). Although washing their clothes cannot change their hearts and make them holy, it does serve as a symbolic reminder that they must thoroughly prepare themselves to meet with the Lord. Therefore, they should not take this meeting casually or treat it with contempt by approaching it nonchalantly without proper respect. Just as Isaiah will later state and the children of Israel here already know:

Instruct

“But we are like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” ([Isa 64:6](#)). In the same way, for those of us who have a relationship with Christ, we need to prepare ourselves daily to abide in His presence and worship Him. We shouldn’t treat God as an after-thought, but we must abide in His presence reverently each day through prayer, Bible study, individual worship through service and obedience, and corporate worship. Because the Holy Spirit indwells us, we have the very presence of the Lord in our lives guiding and protecting us, but we must be conscious to surrender ourselves unto Him and seek to rid our lives of any sin so that we may present ourselves holy and pure unto Him.

In what ways do you need to prepare yourself to be in God’s presence daily?

Question
7

Exodus 19:12-15

RESPECT THE BOUNDARIES GOD HAS SET:

After preparing their hearts, the Lord sets the boundaries by which they should live so that they might maintain focus and comprehend what He will give to them. First, God announces that only Moses may proceed past the **base** of the **mountain** (v. 12). God then spells out the consequences: if they **touch** the **base** of the **mountain** when the **trumpet** sounds to announce the King’s arrival, they shall **be put to death** (vv. 12-13). Second, they are to refrain from having physical relations (i.e. **not coming near their wives**) for the duration that God will meet with Moses on the **mountain**. God has sanctioned physical relations in marriage and practiced within those boundaries it is not

sinful; however, with the boundaries that God has established here, He wants them to put everything out of their mind and focus on the reception of His Word. We know from later in Exodus that the people couldn't focus and they demanded Aaron create a golden calf which they may worship—in essence committing idolatry and being unfaithful while the Lord communicated His exact Word to Moses. Today, God has given us boundaries in our lives to not kill our fun and rob our job, but He has given them because He desires us to live a fruitful and productive life that honors Him. Thus, boundaries give us clear direction and help us focus by putting into perspective the troubles, triumphs, and daily routines of life.

What kind of distractions do you need to overcome in your life so that you may focus on God and worship Him by doing His will?

Question
8

Inspire

This month we are celebrating God's mission that He has given our church and the faithful people whom God used through their obedient service. When we travel, we use a map to plot our course so that we know generally where we are going and arrive at the anticipated location. We don't just hop in the car and say I'm going to drive to Los Angeles without having a specific route and even destination in mind. In our walk with Christ, the Bible gives us specific directions about we can have eternal life as well as how we should live our lives along the way so that we may know with clarity and certainty to Whom we belong. Therefore, we must know God's Word as that map for our lives so that we can understand His mission for us. For this very reason, our church is

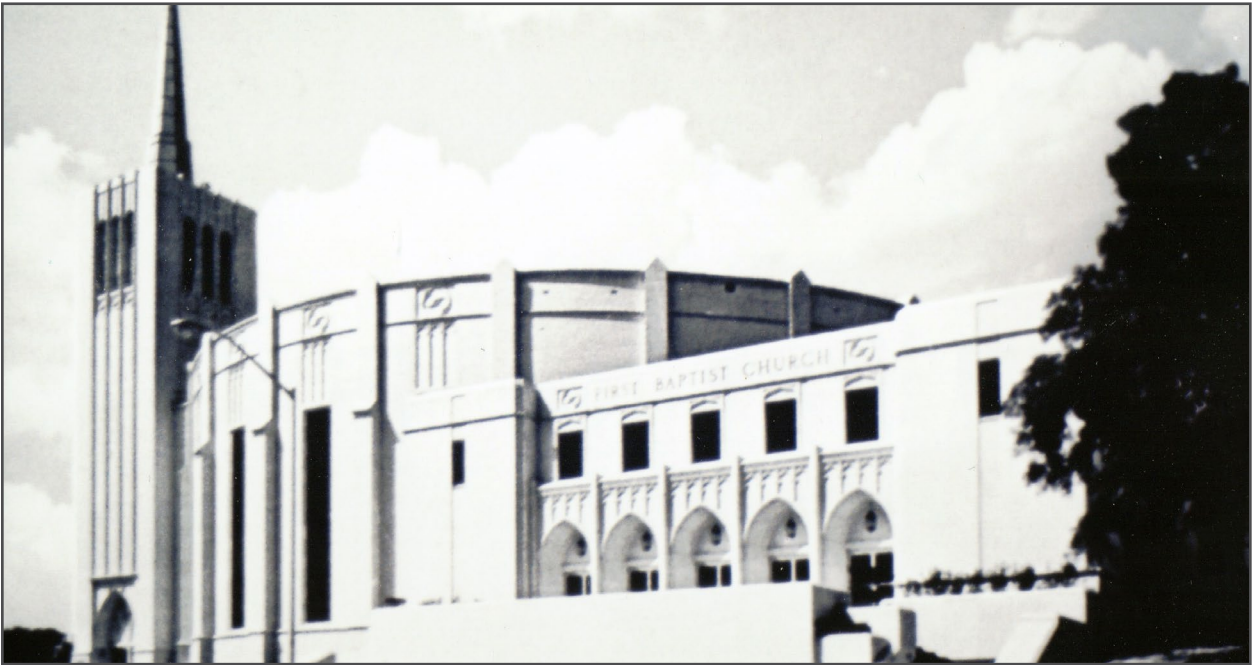
founded upon the truth of God's Word to disciple the generations. Therefore, we must assess our effectiveness in fulfilling the mission that God has for us in two ways: 1) Are we faithfully participating in the mission that God has given us? and 2) When the daily routines and stresses of life occur, on what or whom do we focus? Just as the 1934 brochure our church produced specified, we all have been gifted by God to participate in service of Him; therefore, we all must invest our lives for the mission and the service of the Lord. If we have lost focus and wandered aimlessly without a true sense of purpose, we must repent and refocus our lives so that we can clearly hear God directing us. We need to remove any sins in our lives that may hinder our entry into God's presence, we need to place Him first so that the other priorities in life may be shaped by His wisdom, and finally we need to serve as His ambassadors who set an example of serving in love. If you don't have a place of service here at FBCFW, please prayerfully consider how God he has gifted you and how He is leading you to serve. To help you know what areas of service that we may have in the church and facilitate you becoming actively involved, please go to mymember.fbcfw.org and submit the areas of service in which you would like more information or that you think God is leading you. To be a successful church for the years until Christ returns, we need to be focused on His mission and each one doing his or her part—allowing the Lord to work through us to accomplish the plan that He has set into motion.

Incorporate

In what ways are we as followers of Christ God's special treasure? What are the responsibilities that we have as God's special treasure?

In what ways are you God's ambassador in our community? Why is it important to be God's ambassador visibly in our community?

October 22, 2017



Celebrate by Serving

Joshua 24:14-28

Focal Verse:

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Joshua 24:15

Introduce

In modern America, many people often lack the resolve or commitment to finish a project because they become distracted, grow weary, or even lose interest. Our technology, including mediums such as the television and Internet, create an environment in which we unintentionally have decreased our attention spans. If you don't believe this, ask yourself this question: When was the last time that you watched a television program in its entirety without flipping to another channel during the commercials or recording it on the DVR so that you could skip or fast-forward it? The Internet encourages such behavior even more blatantly as we scroll through hundreds of pages on which we rarely read any text and perhaps stay thirty seconds at the most. We live in a world of instant gratification, so we have come to expect instant results. Consequently, when events and people don't move fast enough to suit us, many times we become frustrated or may even quit a project—not having the mental stamina and fortitude to complete it.

Service in the church can often fall into this secular trap because we may expect instant results or we may grow weary by being confined



in what we consider routine. If God has called us to a particular ministry in the church, we must be faithful to invest in it diligently and see it to completion. This doesn't mean to suggest that once we find a place of service that we are "stuck" there for life and God won't direct us to

Introduce

participate in different activities within the church. On the contrary, it means that we must be wholly devoted to serving the Lord in whatever capacity He may see fit to involve us. Although the Lord may shift our focus or lead us to participate in different service projects from time to time, as we learned last week our mission and purpose stay the same. As individuals whom God has placed in this body, we must devote ourselves to the service of the Lord which fulfills the purpose He has given us.

In a church 150 years old, it is hard to quantify the many ways in which God has used the faithfulness of the membership over the years in serving Him by ministering to the community. Just like Joshua after Israel crossed the Jordan and entered the Promised Land, the members of this church have declared: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" ([Josh 24:15](#)). From our inception, God has given us the opportunity to participate in ministries that clothe the poor, feed the hungry, help the homeless, be advocates for the battered, defend the sanctity of life, participate in disaster relief, work with international refugees, offer programs for physical fitness through the largest gym and pool in the city, provide education and training for ministers and missionaries, engage in programs for social change, mentor others, and the list could continue indefinitely. Through these social ministries, we've had the opportunity to share the gospel and see Christ transform the lives of countless people. Let us continue to serve the Lord with a grateful heart and surrender our lives to Him so that we may be found faithful on the day of His return.

Key
Question

In what ways have you observed our church serving the Lord by ministering to the community?

Joshua 24:14-15

SERVICE IS A CHOICE:

Since the day when the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River and conquered the seemingly impenetrable cities in Canaan, they had observed God's faithfulness and provision despite at times failing to follow His directives ([Josh 24:5-13](#)). At the close of the conquest at the end of the book, Joshua reminds the people Whom they should worship and serve loyally. Because the Lord has acted graciously on their behalf by giving them a land for which they did not work, they ought to **fear the Lord**—that is to show respect or reverence to Him (v. 14). As a result, Joshua outlines two ways in which the people can show reverence unto God: 1) **serve Him in sincerity and truth** and 2) **serve Him solely or alone**. First, we must **serve** God with **sincerity** by surrendering our lives completely to Him; therefore, we can only render service unto the Lord when we have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Paul demonstrates this principle in the New Testament when he discusses the sacrificial giving of the Macedonians: "They first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God" ([2 Cor 8:5](#)). True service, therefore, doesn't come through ritualistic acts designed to earn favor and prominence, but from a humble and obedient heart which desires to please the Lord because of the transformation He has produced within us.

What does sincere service look like in your life?

Question
1

In Context



*Joshua 24:14 **sincerity** (adj.) täm-mēm' - complete, whole, entire. Thus, in this context, the Hebrew word would be better translated as wholly devoted; we should be wholly devoted to serving the Lord.*

Second, Joshua indicates that they should **serve** the Lord with integrity (i.e. **in truth**). Some people who claim to have a relationship with the Lord **serve** Him with the wrong motives; they call attention to themselves so that they might receive notoriety, wealth, or praise (see [Phil 1:15](#)). Others **serve the Lord** under false pretenses, thinking that they will earn favor or

salvation from God by doing charitable deeds ([Eph 2:8-9](#)). Still, others **serve** God with lip service only; they come to Him only when they need or want something and they never have truly surrendered



their lives to His service. In addition, some never put action to their faith and they say one thing, but practice another which brings dishonor to the Lord through their hypocrisy ([Jas 2:20; 5:12](#)). When we have a relationship with Christ and we **serve in sincerity**, then we will have integrity in our

lives to do that to which the Lord has called us. Integrity, therefore, is borne out when we glorify the Lord by fulfilling His will for our lives and representing Him to the world around us so that others might come into a relationship with Him.

In what ways should we exercise integrity in our service to the Lord?

Question # 2

Not only should we **serve** God **in sincerity and truth**, but we should also **serve** Him alone (v. 14). Joshua further explains that they should not worship (i.e. **put away**) **the gods** that their forefathers had **served in Egypt**; he once again reminds them emphatically that they should **serve the Lord alone**. Throughout the entire Old Testament, Israel often had trouble remaining faithful to the Lord because they became distracted by the culture around them. They allowed the culture to influence them and to dictate that which they worshiped and the sinful activities which they practiced. In the same way, our modern culture has distracted many Christians and influenced

them negatively so much that they have turned from the Lord. Culture has crept undetected into the church in many ways, which has caused believers to be swept away by



human self-centeredness, erroneous theology and beliefs, and immoral or sinful practices which have been normalized. Like Joshua, we must remove sinful cultural practices and not allow ourselves to be swept away by the ungodliness of those around us. Instead, we must seek to serve the Lord and Him alone.

How have some Christians allowed culture to compromise their beliefs and dictate their actions? In what way must we separate ourselves from culture to serve the Lord?

Question
3

Finally, in these two verses, Joshua emphasizes that each person must make an individual choice concerning his or her worship. Hence, he poses a question which asks the children of Israel to **choose this day whom they will serve—the gods of their fathers** and the cultures around them or only one true and living **Lord** (v. 15). We know that the first two commandments specify that Israel should have no other gods before Yahweh and they should not bow down to any graven image in idolatrous worship ([Exod 20:3-5](#)). Joshua calls upon them to make a decision today regarding what they would do over the course of their lives so that they would be prepared to remain undaunted when faced with temptation which seeks to draw them away from the Lord. Consequently, God has given us the choice whether we want to devote ourselves to Him and worship Him alone or to reject His offer and worship man-made things and suffer the consequences. For this reason, Joshua declares that he and his **house would serve the Lord**. As the head of the home, Joshua creates an environment which points His family to the Lord, but like him every one

of them must also make a choice Whom he or she will **serve**. Therefore, we must examine our lives and the evidence of its fruit and ask ourselves: Are we worshiping the one true God or have we allowed ungodly cultural influences to creep into our lives and influence us unbeknownst?

In what ways can we create an environment in the home that raises our children to serve the Lord?

Question
4

Joshua 24:16-18

SERVICE REQUIRES COMMITMENT:

After Joshua issued this challenge to choose whom they would **serve**, the **people** declared emphatically that they would never **forsake the Lord** and **serve other gods** (v. 16). They continue to explain that they had witnessed the **great signs** that God **had done** in their **sight** and how He had **preserved** them from the mighty **people** whom they encountered along the way (v. 17). The **great signs** here undoubtedly refer to events like

the plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the provision of food and water in the desert, and guiding them with a cloud and fire in the wilderness. In addition, God had delivered them from the pursuit of the Egyptian army and defeated the



Amalekites during their wilderness journey. When they came to conquer the land of Canaan with its mighty people and fortified cities as described

throughout the book of Joshua, **the Lord** went before them and defeated the **peoples**, like the **Amorites**, who **dwelt in the land** (v. 18). Therefore, they committed **to serve the Lord** because **He is their God**.

Although the people committed to serve the Lord here because of the things that they had experience, in a few short years they forgot what the Lord had done and they turned from serving Him. In fact, in the book of Judges, it reports that “in those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” ([Judges 17:6](#)). Because Israel had rejected God as her King and turned to other sources for wisdom and guidance, they had no moral compass and everyone did as he or she saw fit. In the introduction, we briefly saw how our secular society lacks commitment and resolve to finish projects. Although not everyone fits this category, people today are so overstimulated by change that they want the latest and greatest technology or invention. Entertainment, therefore, becomes the primary goal; if we’re able to keep someone’s attention for a couple of minutes to pass along information, we’ve achieved a monumental goal. Everything in life has ultimately become disposable—including our careers and relationships. Consider how many people get tired of jobs and hop from job to job rather than making a career and being devoted to one company. People unfriend others on social media accounts easily over minor disputes. People think it’s no big deal to divorce and end a marriage commitment that should only end at death.

In what ways do we see a lack of commitment in our society today?

Question
5

Unfortunately, this type of thinking has also carried over into the church and our relationships with the Lord. Over minor details and struggles in their lives, people become angry and despondent with God—blaming Him for their troubles. This causes them to cease fellowship with the larger body of believers and serve God daily in their lives. Rather than investing in the local body, others will hop from church to church for the latest and greatest experience; they don't serve in the church, but they consume the resources as it pleases them. Others live immoral and sinful lifestyles because they have not surrendered to God in their lives; therefore, like Israel, they do whatever they want which seems right in their own eyes and they label it as normal. When we make a commitment to the Lord, however, we need to make sure that we fulfill it lest we experience the consequences. God has always been faithful to us in fulfilling His commitments; therefore, let us remain faithful to Him and surrender our lives completely, giving Him control in every area so that He might be glorified in what He accomplishes through us.

In what ways has this cultural lack of devotion influence or manifested itself in the church today?

Question
6

Joshua 24:19-24

FAILURE TO SERVE HAS CONSEQUENCES:

After the people made such a bold declaration, Joshua cautioned them that breaking their covenant with the Lord would have serious consequences if they only half-heartedly committed themselves. He warned them that they could not **serve the Lord** if they **forsook** Him **and served foreign**

gods (vv. 19-20). Using the language of the second commandment, Joshua reminds the people that the Lord is **holy** and unique—there is no other **god** except the one true and living God, Yahweh (see [Exod 20:5](#)). In August when we looked at the topic of worship, we learned that the Hebrew term **jealous** means unique or distinctive—not envious or covetous. The Lord cannot be envious because there is no one else like Him in all the universe ([1 Sam 2:2](#); see also [Deut 5:9](#)). Through the wisdom that God had given him, Joshua foresaw the fickleness or inconsistency of the people. Indeed, they would turn from the Lord and serve the **foreign gods** of the nations around them in Canaan.

In what ways do we see fickleness or inconsistency in the church today in committing to the Lord?

Question
7

If the people failed to **serve** Yahweh alone, they could expect two consequences: 1) God would not **forgive** their **transgressions** or **sins** and 2) God **will turn** and **do harm** and **consume** them after **He has done good** (v. 20). Indeed, Israel does suffer both of these consequences because of their idolatrous worship. At the beginning of the conquest, God instructed Israel to expel or drive out all the nations from the land of Canaan and not to make any treaties with them because ultimately being around such secular influences would turn their hearts away from Him ([Num 33:51-52](#)). Despite these explicit instructions, Israel failed on two accounts: 1) they did not drive out all the people from the land because they had become complacent ([Josh 17:12](#)) and they made an unwitting treaty with the

Gibeonites and allowed them to stay ([Josh 9-10](#)). Consequently, God punishes Israel by allowing foreign nations to conquer and take them captive, but He always rescued a believing remnant—like Daniel and his friends—and worked miraculously through them.

Although God is patient and gracious in offering eternal life to all through His Son, He will not **forgive** those who reject His offer of salvation and refuse to repent from their **sins**. Jesus states, “Anyone

who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” The Holy



Spirit convicts us of our **sins** and through the shed blood of Christ on the cross cleanses us from all unrighteousness; however, if we reject the Holy Spirit then we also reject the cleansing that He offers and cannot have eternal life. Therefore, when Joshua says, “**He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins,**” he is referring to this outright rejection of the Lord and failure to repent as demonstrated by serving **foreign gods**. Every one of us makes mistakes and God will **forgive** us of our sins, but the only sin which He will **not forgive** is that of the rejecting of the drawing of the Holy Spirit to repent, turn to Him, and surrender our lives completely.

The people repeated their affirmation to **serve the Lord** (v. 21).

Therefore, Joshua confirms their oath by having them serve as **witnesses**

Instruct

against themselves (v. 22). No one can plead the Fifth Amendment and avoid incriminating themselves; they can't make a plea bargain, but they are held responsible for their commitment to the Lord and how they have responded to His call on their lives. If they fail **to put away the foreign gods** and do not **incline** their **heart** toward the Lord alone, they will suffer the consequences. Having a relationship with the Lord will produce transformation and fruit in our lives; thus, the outward evidence here in the Promised Land is faithfulness to God by rejecting secular forms of worship and complete surrender unto the Lord—not just in lip service, but through actual deeds when the Lord works through His people to accomplish His will.

Why must there be transformation and fruit in one's life if he has a relationship with the Lord? If there is no transformation or fruit, what does this likely indicate?

Question
8

Joshua 24:25-28

SERVICE IS A COVENANT WITH GOD:

Finally, we should see our service as a **covenant** with the Lord rather than an odious burden. The text says that **Joshua made a covenant with the people**; it was a binding covenant that was written into law (i.e. **statute and ordinance**) and had severe consequences if the people broke it (vv. 25-26). It wasn't like a New Year's resolution where we commit to do something to improve our lives in the new year because most of us don't keep these commitments nor do we implement strict penalties if we

break them. A **covenant** with the Lord, however, shouldn't be taken lightly. Joshua explains that the words written in this covenant will **be a witness to** them **lest** they **deny their God** (v. 27). We rarely think of our relationship with the Lord as a covenant, but in reality we have made a commitment to be His servant and do His will and He has committed to pay the penalty for our sins and adopt us into His family.

Most of us have signed a contract in our lives—whether a lease for an apartment or for a home mortgage. When we sign the contract, we have a list of stipulations by which we must abide lest we default on the loan and be evicted from our domicile. The bank or lending company then issues a payment for our mortgage on our behalf. Although we don't earn salvation or have to repay it through our service, we have made a commitment unto the Lord to serve Him with all our being. We cannot lose our salvation, but we must constantly remind ourselves of the price that Jesus Christ paid on our behalf and we should demonstrate our gratitude to Him through our obedient service and devoted worship. Just like we wouldn't treat a home mortgage nonchalantly, we must not treat our relationship with the Lord as something secondary and expendable, but we must be wholly committed unto Him.

Why should we view our relationship with Christ in terms of a covenant or contract?

Question
9

When writing this lesson, Hurricane Irma is churning up the west coast of Florida, making its way inland into the South and leaving a wide swath of utter devastation. Hurricane Jose is situated right on its heels, while the flood waters of Hurricane Harvey have only just begun to recede in southeast Texas and Louisiana. On the news and from family members, we hear of unparalleled destruction which adds into the billions and people's lives in some ways have been changed forever. Right after the disaster, however, people are so moved with emotion that they donate money and goods in droves and many people rush into the affected area to offer their services to help. However, in only a few short weeks most people will forget and they will go back to their normal routines, and few volunteers will come to the areas to help even though the recovery will take years. In fact, look at how most people have shifted their focus from Harvey to Irma and this will tell you how short-term human memories are.

The communities ravaged by these hurricanes need long-term help and committed people to volunteer their time for more than just a few weeks, but people quickly forget and return to their routines. Unfortunately, many Christians do the same; we embark on a mission of service with great enthusiasm, but in just a little time we find ourselves worn down and distracted. As Christians, we ought to demonstrate our commitment to Christ by serving and worshiping Him daily. We can certainly turn to Him in a time of need and He will answer, but we shouldn't turn to Him only when we have a disaster in our lives and then forget when He restores us. Instead, we must surrender our lives to Him

so that whether in the deepest of valleys or the highest of mountain peaks that our relationship with Him is consistent. Although we need to serve with vigor and enthusiasm, we should also serve Him with steadfast commitment so that we don't grow weary and become distracted. Let us commit ourselves to serving the Lord consistently for the long-term in our lives so that He may be glorified when He works through us.

Incorporate

In learning about how Israel committed herself to the Lord through a binding covenant, we also need to demonstrate that same level of commitment. Therefore, take time to pray and ask God to help you formulate a covenant with Him which outlines His will for your life at this time.

In your own words, describe your covenant and commitment to the Lord:

Incorporate

a) In what ways do you demonstrate your commitment to Him?

b) In what ways do you need to keep yourself pure and undefiled from the world? In what areas do you struggle most?

c) In what way has God disciplined you when you have gone astray? How did this help you to grow in your walk with Him?

d) In what ways have you declared your choice to serve the Lord through this local church? In other words, in what areas do you participate in discipleship, evangelism, missions, and worship?

October 29, 2017



Celebrate God's Promises

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Focal Verse:

"Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand."

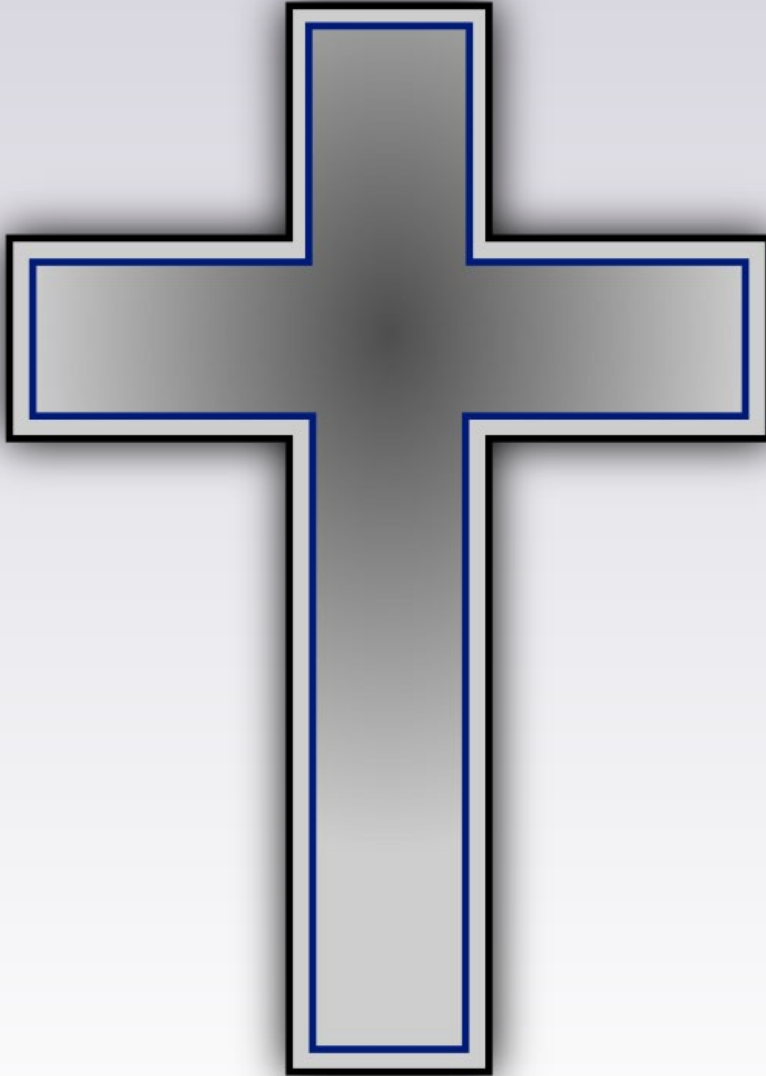
Isaiah 53:10



This week is our Homecoming Celebration where we will glorify the Lord for His faithful work through people in this church for the past 150 years. We will meet for one unified worship service at 10:30 am and will not have Connect Class on Sunday. After the worship service there will be a catered lunch for those who have purchased meal tickets followed by an afternoon program. If you have not purchased a meal ticket and want to attend the program, there will be seats available after the luncheon. Praise God for 150 years of His salvation and guidance here in First Baptist Church of Fort Worth.

Although there are no Connect Classes this week, we still encourage you to read and study your Bible. In this lesson, we will provide an abbreviated outline along with questions to guide you as you study. The theme of this week's devotion is the Celebration of God's Promises. We can celebrate God's promises because even before the foundation of the world He provided a way that we might be restored unto Him by sending the perfect sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, despite our sin and rebellion. To God be the glory for the promised Messiah and the life that He offers through the fulfillment of His death and resurrection so long ago prophesied in Scripture which came to fruition nearly 2000 years ago.

Founded on truth.



Discipling generations.

Outline

Sunday:

[Isaiah 52:13](#)

Exalted by God for His Obedience

Monday:

[Isaiah 52:14](#)

Endured Beatings for Our Sakes

Tuesday:

[Isaiah 52:15-53:1](#)

Enlightened the Nations

Wednesday:

[Isaiah 53:2-3](#)

Excluded by Men

Thursday:

[Isaiah 53:4-6](#)

Exonerated our Sins

Friday:

[Isaiah 53:7-10](#)

Executed on our Behalf

Saturday:

[Isaiah 53:11-12](#)

Exercised Grace to Share His Inheritance

Sunday:

Isaiah 52:13

Exalted by God for His Obedience

Isaiah 52:13 says that God exalted and praised His Servant who we know is Jesus Christ.

Read Philippians 2:5-11. Based on Phil 2:6-8, describe why Jesus is worthy of the Father's exaltation and praise. Then list the ways in which God exalted Christ (Phil 2:9-11).

Monday:

Isaiah 52:14

Endured Beatings for Our Sakes

Isaiah 52:14 describes the Servant as being “marred more than any man.”

Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus endured severe torture.

Read Matthew 26:67-68; 27:27-31; Mark 14:65; 15:15; Luke 22:64; and

John 18:22; 19:1-3. In what ways was Jesus tortured and beaten prior

to being crucified?

Tuesday:

Isaiah 52:15-53:1 Enlightened the Nations

According to the New Testament, in what ways did people both the Jewish leaders and the crowds despise and reject Jesus?

Wednesday:

Isaiah 53:2-3

Excluded by Men

In what way does Jesus bear our griefs and sorrows? How did He pay for our sins and transgressions?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 as well as 9:22.

Thursday:

Isaiah 53:4-6

Exonerated our Sins

In what ways has Jesus freed (exonerated) us of our sins?

Read Romans 6:12-23.

Friday:

[Isaiah 53:7-10](#)

Executed on our Behalf

In what ways during the crucifixion do we see Scripture fulfilled and Jesus wounded for our transgressions and literally pierced for our iniquities?

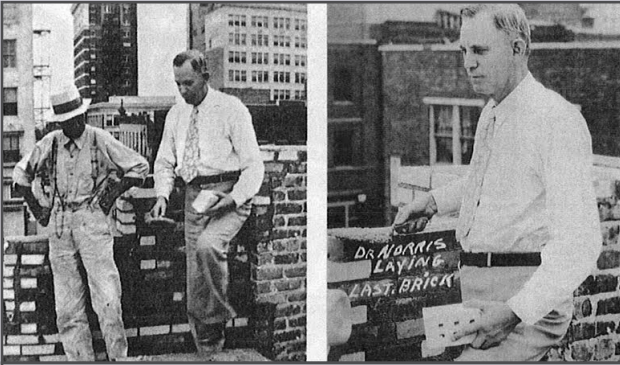
Read [John 19:31-37](#).

Saturday:

Isaiah 53:11-12 Exercised Grace to Share His Inheritance

In what ways do we as followers of Christ share in His inheritance? Many verses in the New Testament affirm being able to share in the inheritance of Christ.

Read John 1:12; Romans 8:17. Also, verses like John 3:16 and Romans 6:23 explain the inheritance we will receive.



Dr. Norris helps set the final brick in 1929



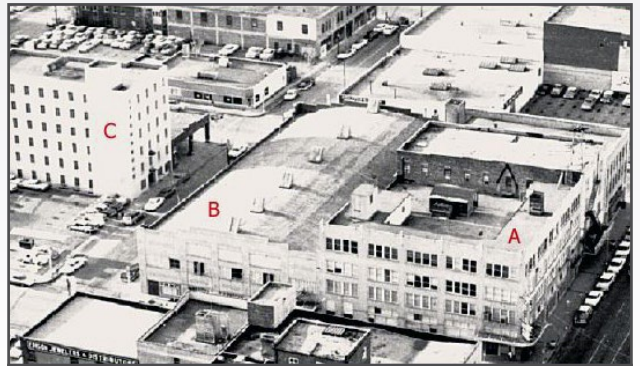
Israel bound



Full auditorium at 3rd & Taylor in 1925



Original Sanctuary at Current Campus



4th & Throckmorton Campus Downtown

For Ministry Info and Ways to Get Involved:

To see Ministry Opportunities go to:

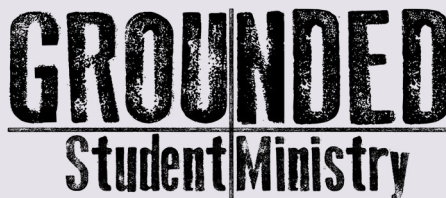
mymember.fbcfw.org

Children's Ministry
Birth - 6th Grade



kaz.fbcfw.org

Student Ministry
7th - 12th Grade



students.fbcfw.org

Men's Ministry



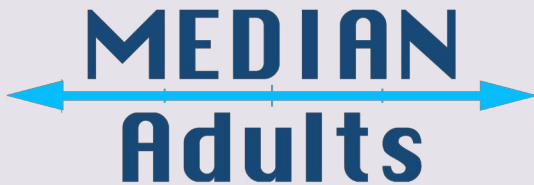
men.fbcfw.org

Women's Ministry



women.fbcfw.org

Adult Ministry



adults.fbcfw.org

Worship Ministry



worship.fbcfw.org

Stay Informed!



events.fbcfw.org

Legacy Adult Ministry • 55+



impact.fbcfw.org

Audio Sermons



sermons.fbcfw.org

First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is *Celebrating 150 Years*

through the month of October with Great Music & Special Guests

Worship Service @ 11:00 am*

October 1

Dr. Don Wills

Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of Fort Worth

October 15—Guest Speaker

Dr. Jim Richards

Executive Director

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

October 8—Guest Speaker

Dr. Paige Patterson

President

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

October 22—Guest Speaker

Dr. D.L. Moody

President

Arlington Baptist University

*Connect Class for all ages @ 9:30 am

Join us for Homecoming Sunday at 10:30 am

Sunday, October 29, 2017

Dr. Bill Ramsey, Pastor of FBCFW 1984-1992

We will have a catered lunch, special music, and a time of fellowship as we reflect on the heritage of our church.

Purchase tickets for luncheon no later than October 15 at 150.fbcfw.org



October 2017

Written and Published by
First Baptist Church of Fort Worth

For more information
or for questions
please contact
mikeneal@fbcfw.org

Interactive PDF available online at
curriculum.fbcfw.org

Visit us on the web

www.fbcfw.org



[@FBCFW](https://twitter.com/FBCFW)



[facebook.com/
FirstBaptistFortWorth](https://facebook.com/FirstBaptistFortWorth)

[FBCFW • 5001 NE Loop 820 • Fort Worth, TX • 76137](http://www.fbcfw.org)

(817) 485-7711 • info@fbcfw.org