



Just Believe

LIVING LIFE IN *His* NAME

GRACE FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

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Every Fall, we kick off a new sermon series with the hope of drawing our hearts closer to Christ. We believe that everything exists to glorify God. We know that He is the source and sustainer of all things and that in Him we have life and life to the fullest. Now that may sound impossible, yet it's the very thing Jesus offers. John 10:10 states, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." A full life is a life free from guilt and shame, a life full of joy and peace, a life that has experienced His grace and is willing to give others that same grace. Now that's hard to believe in, is it not?

The focus of our study for the next 16 weeks is: **Do you believe?** *Do you believe Jesus is able to do abundantly more than you can imagine? Do you believe He has conquered sin and death? Do you believe He is who He said He is? Do you believe He cannot only change water into wine but, more importantly, He can change you? The apostle John believed, and he wrote the book of John so that*

people would also believe. John 20:30-31, “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**”

We will spend four months studying together, “What does it mean to **“believe?”** More than merely learning some facts about Jesus, we want to know what it means to act on our belief in Him—to trust, to imitate, to obey, and to abide in Him. We will look at Jesus in His humanity and divinity. We will see how true belief in Jesus should change us, drive us, break us and restore us. We will look at how Jesus talked with others, how he wept with those in need, and see His willingness to go against the culture of His day for the sake of the Father's will. So we invite you to come and join us in the *“journey of belief.”*

In Him,

Pastor Kevin, Pastor Robbie and the Elders

Knowing God

Thus says the LORD "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, **that he understands and knows Me**, that I am the LORD who exercises loving-kindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Loving His People

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**"

John 13:34-35

Reaching Out to an Unsaved World

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15

S.O.A.P

Bible Study



Scripture

Read the passage and ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate a word, phrase or verse. What stands out to you? Write it down.



Observation

Take a closer look at the word, phrase or verse you wrote down. What do you observe?



Application

How is the Spirit leading you to apply what you observed into your own life? Where is it challenging you?



Prayer

Pray about the passage or scripture. Ask God to give you the wisdom to apply it.

WEEK 1

John 1



To Sua Ocean Trench, Samoa

“**In the beginning...**” This should sound very familiar! Read through **Genesis 1** and notice the parallels between these two introductions. The Apostle John was clearly making it known that Jesus Christ was “in the beginning.” Take some notes on why these introductions are extremely important to the Christian faith.

The Gospel of John is one of only a few books in the Bible that explicitly state the thesis. Read **John 20:30-31** before you continue reading.

Why was the Gospel of John written?

As you continue reading the Gospel of John and studying through this journal, remind yourself about the purpose of this letter.

GREEK GEEK!

John 1:14 σκηνω (skay-no'-o)

Definition: “to dwell, to tabernacle, to tent”

John is using symbolism that Jewish readers would understand very well.

Learn about this symbolism by reading

Exodus 40:34-38.

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Melissa Baccarella

LOCATION: Caselle Italy

EMAIL: mbaccarella@abwe.cc

Melissa has served on the field since February 2003. Her current assignment is with the church-planting team in Caselle, near the Northwest city of Turin. Her strengths lie in teaching and media development.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. A new colleague, Brian Opre, just arrived in Caselle and will complete his orientation period to field ministry with the team over the next year.
2. Continue to pray for her PhD studies. That she will have clarity of mind, precision in her writing, and punctuality (meeting deadlines).
3. The Kleis family will be on furlough this summer. Pray for them, and for Melissa, and for the church family during their absence.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 2

John 2-3



HAVASUPAI FALLS

MEAT FOR THE WEEK ♦ JOHN 2-3

Keeping Your Temple Clean—John 2:12-21

John tells the story of Jesus cleansing the temple in Jerusalem to establish three primary truths.

1. GOD OWNS HIS TEMPLE.....He called the priest (1 Peter 1:9) to steward the temple and help people approach Him.

Do you do the same? Are you pointing others back to God?

2. God's word is the only authority recognized in the temple, not the priest or any other thing. Anyone acting in a way that is contrary to His word has no authority.

Whose authority do you point others to?

Whose authority do you look to live by?

3. God's Son came to claim ownership of the temple. The temple was always a shadow of Christ to come, but they rejected His coming.

In the New Testament, believers are now God's temple—
1 Cor.6:19-20.

Q. What do you think the Lord wants to drive out of your temple?

Q. Is your temple a house of prayer?

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Gary and Mariann Barker

LOCATION: Church Rescue in
Paso Robles, CA

EMAIL: gambarker@yahoo.com

In August of 2007, Gary and Mariann went to Zambia, Africa with Baptist Mid-Missions to upgrade a three year Bible Institute to a four year college. While there, they along with their co-workers, also planted a church. Pastor Gary and Mariann retired from the mission and returned to the United States in 2015. Pastor was called to return to Grace Baptist Church in Paso Robles in September 2017.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____

WEEK 3

John 4



ANTELOPE CANYON, CA

“And He had to pass through Samaria.”

Although the journey from Judea to Galilee was faster for a Jew if they went through Samaria, this was very uncommon. Jewish people would usually spend nearly three extra days on the road simply to avoid going to Samaria. The religion of Samaritans was a mixture of Jewish Mosaic Law and other superstitions. This tainting of the Jewish religion created hatred between the two people groups. It was not common for people like Jesus and His followers to pass through Samaria. However, **He had to pass through**, because there were people He knew needed to hear Him.

The woman at the well is an outcast among an outcast group of people. She, an Samaritan adulteress woman, was not even able to gather water at the same time as other women. Yet Jesus specifically came to Samaria to proclaim **“I who speak to you am He”** (Jn. 4:26).

“This One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

Do you remember the purpose of the Gospel of John? These are verses that were included to remind the reader of its utmost importance. Think about when you first heard about Christ. Think about the person who preached the Gospel to you and be thankful for this person in prayer. If possible, reach out to this person and thank them for their **labor**. Discuss with them in detail about what the Lord is doing in your life.

GREEK GEEK!**John 4:27**

θαυμαζω (thou-mad'-zo)

Definition: “I am amazed, I marvel, I wonder”

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



Jim, Kristine, Briana & Elsie Foster
Cape Town, South Africa | jkbefoster@hotmail.com

Jim and Kristine Foster live in Cape Town South Africa. Jim is the administrator of Good Hope Christian School that meets in Community Baptist Church. The school currently has 710 students. They live and work in a low-income high crime and drug impacted area. This school, as well as the church, makes a huge difference in their community.

As a professional photographer Kristine has a special ministry called "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" in the local hospitals. She takes photos for families who have had a still born baby to provide them images to remember the little one they've lost. This is also an opportunity to share eternal hope with grieving hearts.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____

WEEK 4

John 5



Waitomo Glowworm Caves, New Zealand

Have you ever been sick? You probably answered, “Yes, everybody gets sick!” Imagine being sick for thirty-eight years... not fun!

In John 5, Jesus met a man who has been so sick that he can't even get up. Jesus felt sorry for the man and healed him immediately. Some of the people who witnessed this miracle were upset that Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath. Jews were supposed to rest on the Sabbath and do no work. But did that include not doing good?

These same people who were upset about healing on the Sabbath were also very angry that Jesus said that He was doing His Father's work. Saying this meant that Jesus had the same nature as God and was equal to Him. Only the One who created us can perform miracles that heal us instantly. The Jews were so angry that they wanted to kill Jesus.

Jesus told the crowd who saw the miracle that anyone who believed in Him would have eternal life and that they would not be judged by God. Jesus said that one day the dead would hear His voice and would come back to life. Who has the power to do such a thing?

Jesus also explained to the people that the Scriptures were written about Him, but the people thought that the Scriptures were about God, Moses and the Law. Jesus went on to say that if you don't believe Moses, then you don't believe Him!

*Many other people were healed by Jesus. Read the passages below and see how people reacted to these miracles!

Mark 5 | Matthew 8:5-10 | John 9

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Mike and Rachel Gustafson

LOCATION: Kyiv, Ukraine

EMAIL: mgustafson@abwe.cc

Mike and his wife Rachel serve in a Ukrainian church ministry and teach leadership training. Mike is the chaplain for Kyiv Theological Seminary and works with the evangelistic Men's Christian Basketball League. Rachel home schools their 5 children (Ellie, Daniel, Johnathan, Susanna and Titus) and works with Ladies Ministries.



SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 5

John 6



Have you ever been hungry? I mean really hungry! In America few people ever truly go hungry and nearly no one starves. The rest of the world is not so blessed. Food helps to preserve your body. Jesus said that one of the signs of His return to earth was that there would be famines.

In John 6, Jesus must feed a very large crowd of people, but there are only a few fish and loaves of bread. Because He is Creator of the Universe, Jesus can create something out of nothing, so He made enough food for the crowd, with leftovers!

Many people followed Jesus just because He fed them. He explained to them that He was the real food from Heaven: food that preserves the soul. He told them that He was the Bread of Heaven and that if they would only believe in Him they would be full, with eternal life!

Jesus was asked what was the “work” that they should do to have eternal life. What was His answer? See if you can find the answer in this chapter.

*When Moses led the people out of Egypt they needed food and water for their long journey to the Promised Land. Read the passages below to see how God provided for them!

Ex 15:22-27 | Ex 16:11-32 | Ex 17:3-5

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



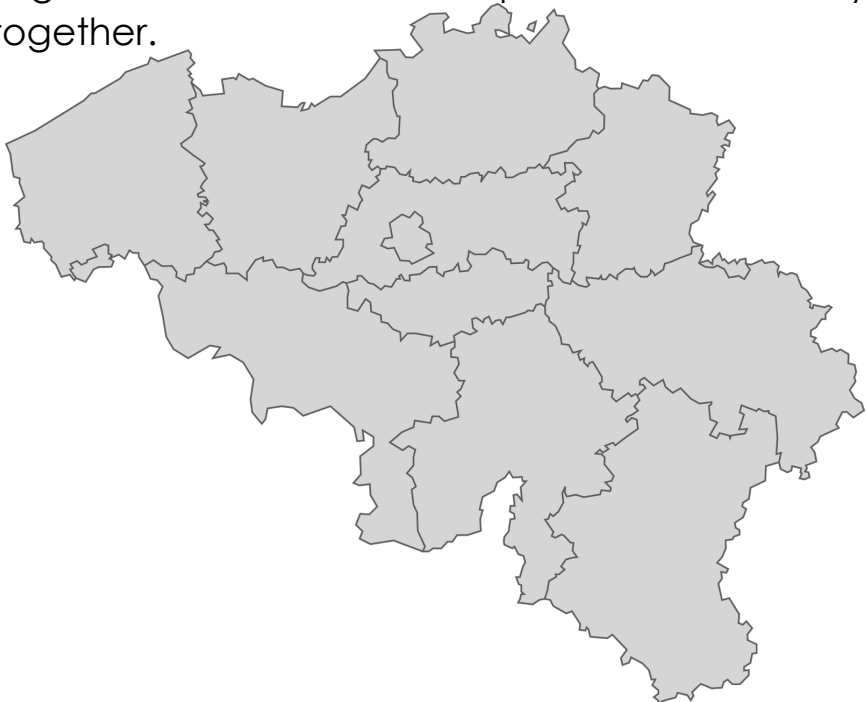
NAME: Dennis, Laura, Drake & Brady Leavell

LOCATION: Brugge, Belgium

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The Leavell Family is planting churches in Brugge, Belgium. They have been faithfully serving and recently Laura's friend came to know the Lord after 13 years! Both of their boys live in the USA now.

Dennis also hosts a podcast called "Walking Together" in an effort to keep their church family together.



SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____

WEEK 6

John 7



Otzarreta Forest, Spain

Where were you born? Were you born in poverty? Was your birth predicted by a prophet? Did your parents have to hide you from the authorities when you were young? Probably not, but that is how Jesus' life began.

The Jews were amazed by Jesus' teachings. They thought that you had to learn in a proper institution to be a teacher, but Jesus was from a poor carpenter's family. How could He know so much? The Jews judged Jesus to be just another ignorant peasant who couldn't possibly know much because He hadn't gone to the finest schools and didn't get an education. But Jesus told them, "Do not judge by appearance, but judge a righteous judgment."

Knowing Christ is the best education you can get! All of the wisdom of the world is revealed in Him. The mind of Christ is our possession. The foolishness of God is wiser than the smartest man or woman. The weakness of God is stronger than any bodybuilder or athlete.

This was an expression from the 1970's:

*"You can go to college or you can go to school,
but if you ain't got Jesus you're an educated fool!"*

*Read the verses below to learn about another man who was born in poverty, predicted by a prophet and hid from authorities for safety!

Ex 1:8-22 | Ex 2:1-8 | 1 Cor 1:18-25

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Gary, Sherrie & Liarra Lester

LOCATION: Perth, Australia

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The Lesters are currently serving in their ministry in Australia. Sherrie is fighting cancer, which has spread to her upper and lower GI. Pray her healing and endurance in the face of cancer treatments. Pray also for their spiritual well-being as they share the gospel in such a dark place.



SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 7

John 8



Aurora Borealis Northern Lights

Around 1450 B.C., Moses was tending his flocks when he saw a burning bush on the top of a mountain. God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and told him that he would bring the people of Israel out of Egypt. Moses asked God what His name was. God replied “*I AM THAT I AM*”! (Exodus 3)

Around 30 A.D., Jesus was telling the scribes and Pharisees that they were slaves to sin. They did not like to hear that because they were Abraham's descendants. Jesus said that if they wanted to be free from sin then they would have to abide in His Word!

Jesus told them that Abraham rejoiced to hear His Word and see Him. The people were shocked to hear that Abraham knew Him. But Jesus said, “...before Abraham was, *I AM*!” Jesus was calling Himself the same great “*I AM*” that Moses had heard from the burning bush! The people picked up stones to kill Jesus, because they thought He was blaspheming!

*For a further study on the “*I AM*” statements of Jesus look up the passages below:

John 6:35 | John 8:12 | John 14:6
John 10:9 | John 15:5 | John 11:25

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Bruce and Margie McLain

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EMAIL: carbc.mclain@gmail.com

→ California State Representatives



SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 8

John 9



Images from Hubble Space Telescope

What is of greater importance to God: answering all of our spiritual curiosities or increasing our faith? In this week's Bible reading, the disciples wanted the answers to their spiritual novelties while God was more interested in being compassionate and building the faith of a helpless blind man. In John 9, we meet a blind man along the side of the road. While the disciples were asking "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus is moved with compassion and is active in restoring the sight of this helpless man.

After Jesus puts clay on the man's eyes, He tells him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. He doesn't even promise sight to the man. Jesus only requires obedient faith. Imagine the faith of this man stumbling along the road in search of the pool, all because he hoped for healing from a man who was called "Jesus." He washed and he came back seeing (v. 7). Then follows a series of interrogations by the Jewish leaders which ultimately lead to the man being thrown out of the synagogue. But all along, God is building the faith of this man. Notice the names in which he refers to his healer: "The man they called Jesus" (v. 11); "he is a prophet" (v. 17); and "from God" (v. 33).

The formerly blind man had recovered his physical sight. Now Jesus wants him to find his spiritual sight. So Jesus reveals himself as the "Son of Man" (v. 35) - a title for the Jewish Messiah. The man responds by calling Jesus his "Lord" (v. 38). As you study this week, examine the growing faith of this blind man. See how the "light of the world" brings him from darkness to light.

If you want to know Jesus more, add to your knowledge by learning about His person as revealed in the Scriptures. But also learn about Jesus more by trusting Him more and more in the experiences of everyday life. When God brings difficulties into your life, watch for Jesus to come to you and seek to grow your faith. As John 8:12 tells us, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

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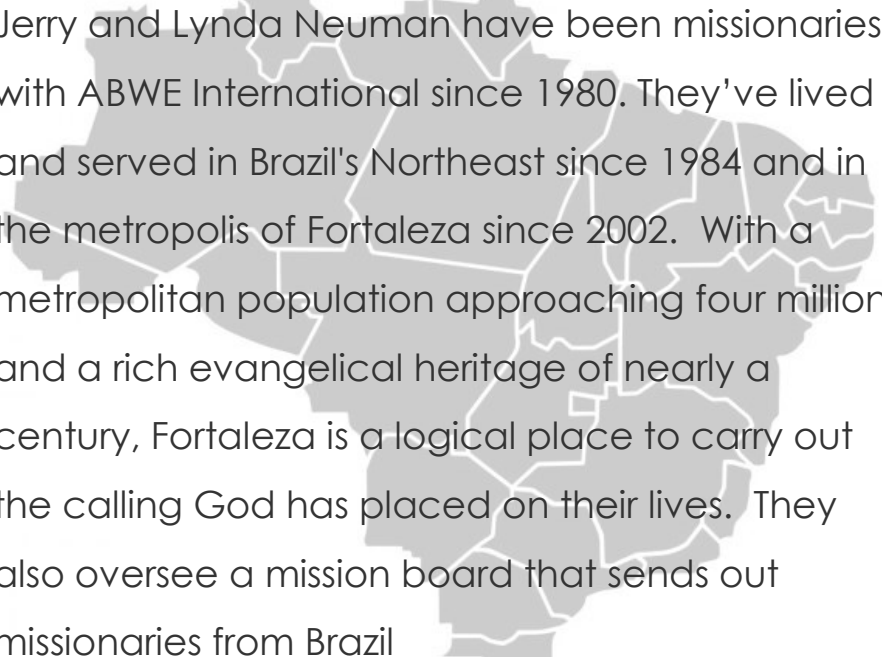
SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Jerry & Linda Neuman

LOCATION: Brazil

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jlneuman@abwe.cc



Jerry and Lynda Neuman have been missionaries with ABWE International since 1980. They've lived and served in Brazil's Northeast since 1984 and in the metropolis of Fortaleza since 2002. With a metropolitan population approaching four million and a rich evangelical heritage of nearly a century, Fortaleza is a logical place to carry out the calling God has placed on their lives. They also oversee a mission board that sends out missionaries from Brazil

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 9

John 10



Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia

Sheep are beautiful. Sheep are gentle. Sheep are humble. Sheep are, contrary to popular opinion, quite intelligent, but they are so utterly prone to getting lost that if they go astray they are helpless to find food or to find water. There are about a billion plus sheep in the world and all of them would very soon starve to death or die of thirst if it were not for thousands of caring shepherds, who, like the shepherd in Scripture, goes out after the lost sheep because he knows it could never find its way back. All other animals can track back, but not sheep.

When Jesus saw the disoriented, confused, hungry, thirsty, spiritually lost crowds, He said they were like sheep without a shepherd. They didn't know where they were. They couldn't feed themselves. They couldn't find water. They were totally lost and did not know the way back—there was no one to lead them to water, to lead them to food, or to lead them home. When the prophet Isaiah wanted to describe lost men, he selected sheep and he said, "All we like sheep have" what? "gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way." And now we're all disoriented and we're all lost and we could never find our way to the sheepfold.

Another element, we imagine sheep to be these little, clean, soft, white, wooly things, like a lamb. When we were in New Zealand we were out on the sheep farm and all of our kids got these little, wooly lambs and a little bottle and they were all feeding these little, wooly lambs and oohing and aahing and cooing about how soft and cuddly the little lambs were. It doesn't take long though for a lamb to become a sheep, and sheep, by the way, are rarely white and almost never clean. They are stained. And the reason they are stained is

because within the wool that they produce is an immense amount of oil, lanolin. That oil permeates their hide. They are the greasiest animal you ever put your hand on. They're like somebody who went crazy with hair cream. And because they are so totally greasy and oily, everything in their environment sticks to them, everything; dirt, blowing in the wind or dirt on which they happen to roll, weeds through which they walk, vegetation, seeds being blown about by the wind, anything and everything. And they have absolutely no capacity to clean themselves. They can't do that. They have no physical dexterity to do that. They are dirty until the shepherd shears them. (from John Macarthur)

This is why we need to KEEP our eyes on the GREAT SHEPHERD!

- ◆ What does Jesus promise to do for His sheep?

- ◆ What encourages you the most about Jesus being our shepherd?

- ◆ Who is someone you know, that is not part of His sheepfold, that you need to pray for?

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Sharon Rahilly

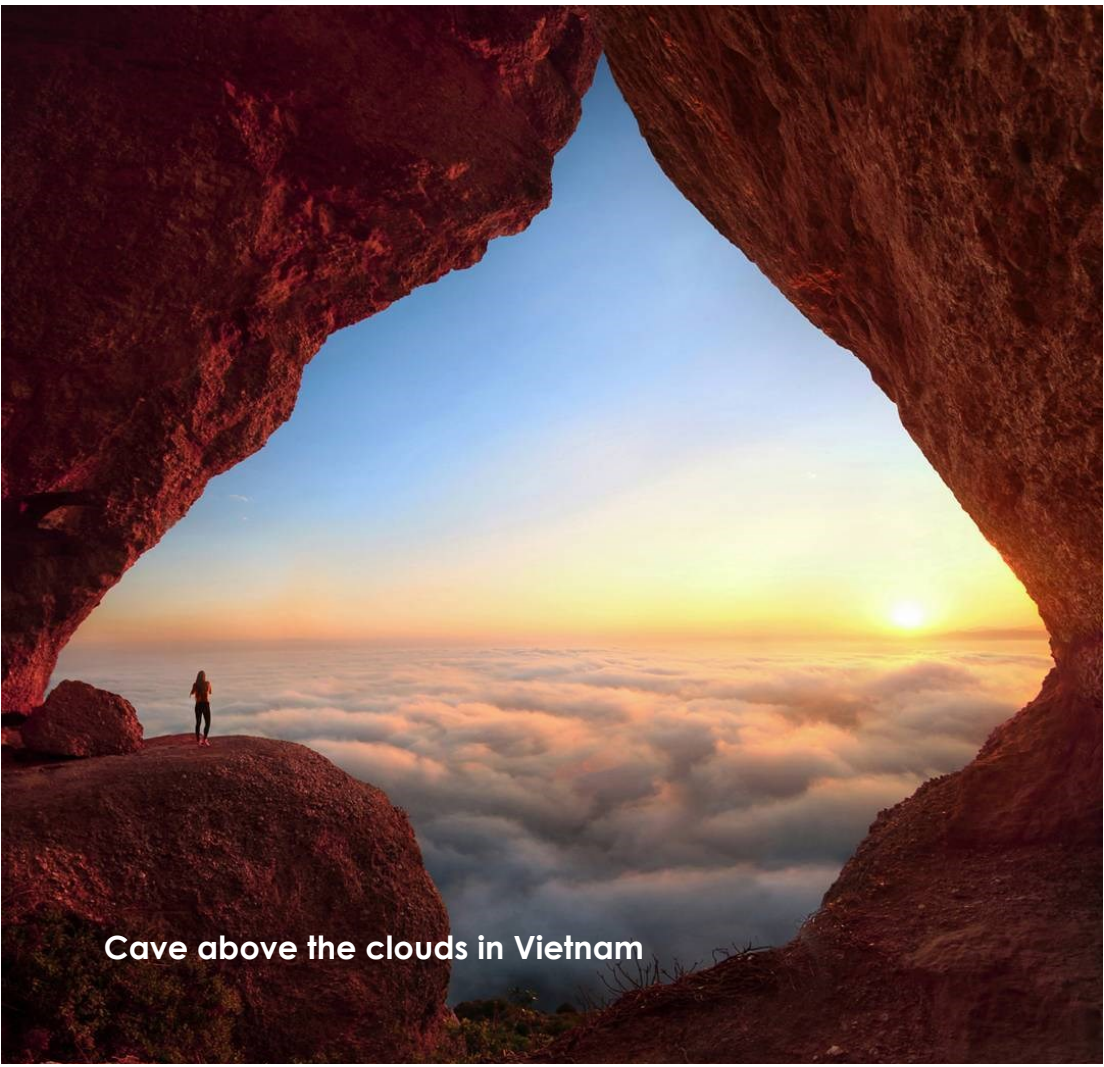
LOCATION: Togo, West Africa

EMAIL: rahillys@yahoo.com

There are two ABWE hospitals in Togo. The first is in southern Togo, Hôpital Baptiste Biblique in Tsiko, where they have been educating Togolese nurses since 1997. The second is the Hospital of Hope in Mango (northern Togo). A few years ago administrators of both hospitals reported the need for another nursing class in order to adequately staff the hospitals. Although Sharon Rahilly has taught in the nursing program in the south since 1997 and had directed the program since 2002, directing and teaching in two nursing schools, approximately 7 1/2 hours apart, never even entered the realm of possibility in her thinking! Many of us were able to meet Sharon last year when she was home in 2020 on furlough.

WEEK 10

John 11



Cave above the clouds in Vietnam

What would it be like for your family to be the one that Jesus chose for frequent visits? We see such a family this week. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were special friends of Jesus. He would stay at their house when He was passing through town.

When Lazarus got so sick he was close to death, the family sent word to Jesus. Of course they thought He would immediately come. He went quickly to heal Jairus's daughter, so naturally He would put His ministry on hold and rush to Bethany. Or He could say the word like He did with the centurion and Lazarus would be healed. But Jesus waits four days. Jewish folklore held that the spirit of the departed would hang around for three days hoping for the person to be resuscitated. Lazarus being in the grave four days made the situation utterly hopeless. The great enemy death had won.

But Jesus had much more in mind than simply raising Lazarus from the dead. That was not a difficult challenge for Him. Jesus was deeply concerned for the faith of those who were present at the tomb. How could God get the most glory possible? An impossible resurrection would reveal divine power much more than restoring a person from a bed of sickness.

When Jesus called out for Lazarus to come forth, Jesus performs one of his greatest miracles. He shows beyond a shadow of doubt that He was who He claimed to be. But don't miss that this miracle also sealed the fate of Jesus. It invigorated the Jewish leaders in their determination to kill Jesus.

As you study this week, look at the awfulness of death experienced by this special family and the compassion of the One who conquered death for His dear friend and would soon be triumphant in defeating the enemy of death on the cross. Through all the difficulties of life, God moves things along so that He will receive the greatest amount of glory. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." (Psalm 50:15)

SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: John & Beabea Rogers

EMAIL: jrtbem@gmail.com

John Rogers is a graduate of Spurgeon Baptist Bible College and was ordained to the ministry on June 17th, 1980. He and his wife, Beabea, were appointed as missionaries the same year with Fellowship of Baptists for Home Missions (later renamed Baptist Mission of North America.)

John and Beabea proceeded to spend 18 years as church planters in beautiful Utah. Faith Baptist Church continues to thrive today. Located in Spanish Fork, Utah, it has been used by the Lord as a spiritual greenhouse to prepare and train many for Christian service.

In December of 2000 the Rogers family moved to Indiana where John became Pre-Field Director for Evangelical Baptist Missions and Regional Coordinator for North America. In addition to working with missionary appointees in their pre-field process, he and Beabea spent time assisting Bible-believing churches in their efforts to develop their people for missions as well as teaching how to both witness for Jesus Christ and live their faith before others.

With the announced closing of Evangelical Baptist Missions in August of 2011, John and Beabea began searching for a new ministry. Indeed, John's experiences with church planting, missions, small local churches and the on-site experiences of observing pastors and missionaries with their unique needs make him a perfect addition to the ministry offering of Barnabas Enrichment Ministries!

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

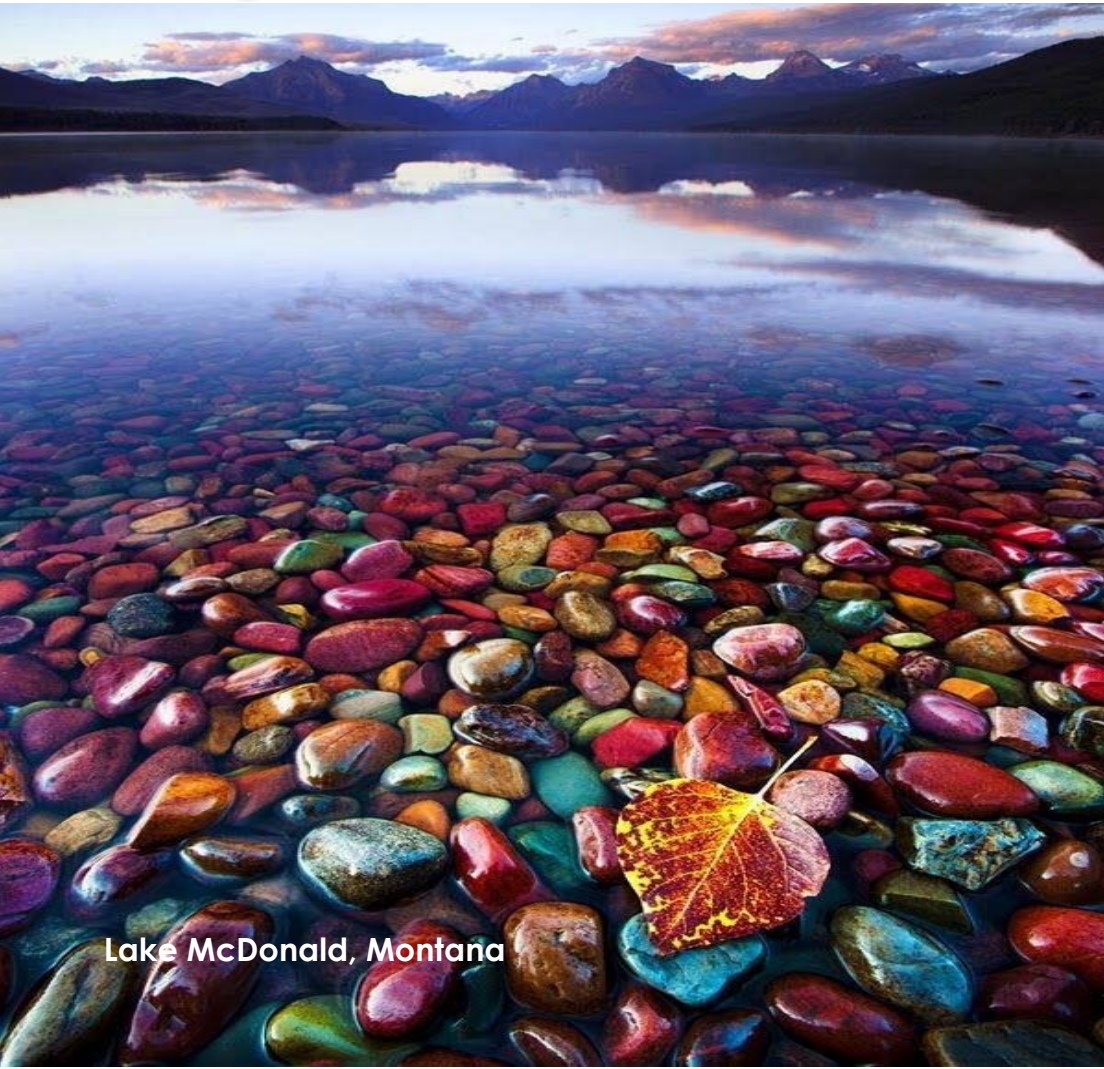
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WEEK 11

John 12



Lake McDonald, Montana

"Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it out on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." John 12:3

Why is Mary's anointing of Jesus significant enough to be included in 3 out of the 4 gospels?

To answer this question, first read the other two accounts of this event and pay close attention to what Jesus said about her:

- Matthew 26:6-13
- Mark 14:3-9

Jesus calls what Mary did "a beautiful thing" and says that what she has done will be told alongside the gospel itself, as it is preached throughout the world. Why? Of all of the events that happened leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection, why is Mary's action so important that Jesus Himself says it will be told alongside the gospel?

Consider this: in the very next section of Matthew & Mark's accounts, Judas seeks out the chief priests and makes a deal to betray Jesus. (Read Matthew 26:14-16 and Mark 14:10-11). After complaining about Mary for wasting so much money on Jesus in John 12:4-6, Judas quite literally sells Jesus out for far less than the value of the perfume. What a contrast! Mary pours out everything she has out of love and dedication to Jesus. The value of the perfume was of no significance to her because her love for Him outweighed everything. Judas, on the other hand, is willing to betray Jesus for a relatively small amount of money. The value of the silver Judas collected was of no significance to him; he just wanted to be rid of Jesus.

Now, let's think again about what Jesus said after Mary anointed Him. Perhaps Jesus wants us to hear the story of Mary when the gospel is preached because the good news of the gospel requires a response. Will you be like Judas, who responded to Jesus by turning his back? Or will you be like Mary, who held nothing back? What are you holding back today?

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SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



Caleb & Christina Suko | Odessa, Ukraine | sukofamily.org

Caleb and Christina Suko are planting an international church in Odessa, Ukraine with expats from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Caleb also serves as director of [Blagovestie Today](#), center for evangelism and discipleship. Through this center, hundreds of Ukrainians are trained each year to share their faith and engage in discipleship that is biblical and effective. Christina serves at Choose Life, a pro-life women's center where she counsels women and shares the gospel by taking them through *The Story of Hope* and other biblical material.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

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WEEK 12

John 13-14



Sequoia National Forest, CA

“For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” John 13:15

When Jesus asks us to follow His example, what is He asking us to do?

Although we can read the entirety of Scripture and find countless examples of ways to be more like Christ, there are only a few places where we see pointed instructions to follow Christ's example in a specific way. One of those places is here in John 13. Reread verses 12-16.

Jesus has just washed His disciples' feet. He removed His outer clothing, wrapped a towel around Himself, poured water into a basin, washed the feet of the disciples (including Judas), and then dried them with the towel He was wrapped in. Yet in this act of humility and service, He still acknowledges his rightful identity as “Teacher” and “Lord” in verse 13. There is no position high enough to exempt us from serving one another.

Let's take a look at a few other places where we see similar instructions.

Read Matthew 11:28. When Jesus says “learn from me”, what qualities is He referring to?

Next read Philippians 2:5: “Your attitude would be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” What was Jesus' attitude? Keep reading! Verses 6-8 tell us exactly what model we must follow.

1 Peter 2:21 also tells us that Christ has left an example for us to follow in His steps. If you back up a few verses and

read the details Peter provides in verses 19-20, you'll see a common theme as in the previous verses.

Jesus' character is marked by humility, gentleness, and willingness to suffer for others. If we belong to Him, our lives should be defined by the same qualities. As 1 John 2:6 tells us, "Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did."

With this in mind, think about the people and circumstances in your life. Where can you move toward someone with the humility and gentleness of Jesus? Who can you serve with a heart for "showing them the full extent of his love" as it says in John 13:1. Be specific, be intentional, and walk as Jesus did.

SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Bob & Lynn Trout

LOCATION: ABWE

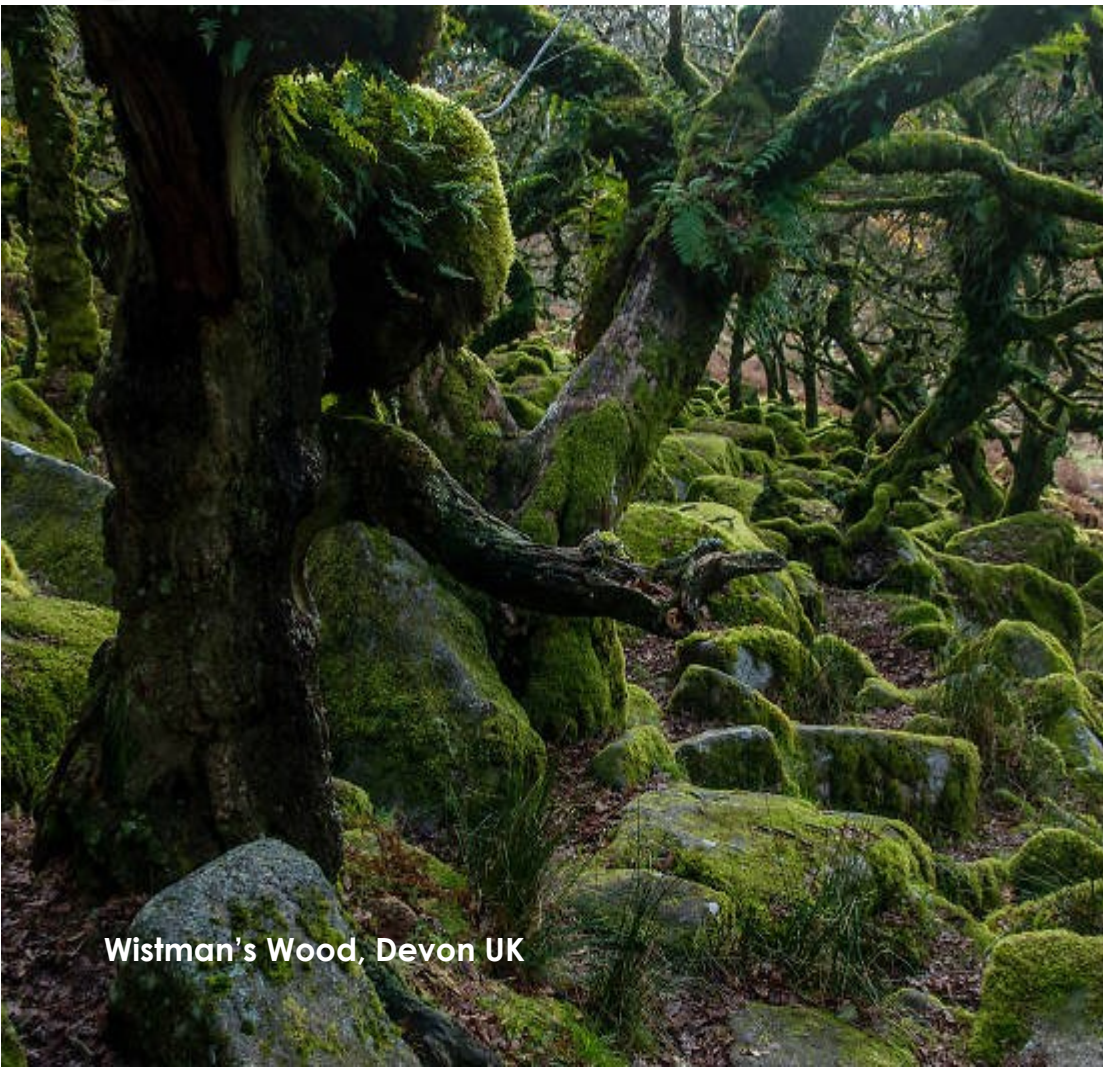
EMAIL: btrout@abwe.com

Bob and Lynne are in their 53rd year with ABWE, 45 of those years in South America. Their ministry in Colombia grew from 1 church to 41 churches, founding of the Bogota Seminary which grew from 2 to 90 students in night school and 30 residential students, and establishing a national mission board. They also served for 9 years as Regional Administrator for Spanish Speaking South America and 5 years as Director of Member Care.

They are actively involved with their ABWE colleagues through Member Care Interviews, traveling to the fields to provide care and in the US with our Senior Ambassadors. Their heart is missions and missionaries. Bob and Lynne have been married for 57 years, have 3 children and 11 grandchildren.

WEEK 13

John 15-16



Wisman's Wood, Devon UK

“Remain in me and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

What does it mean to “remain”?

The Greek word used in this passage is *menó* which simply means to stay or to abide. The idea here is that we will consistently remain in the presence of Christ.

Read Ephesians 3:17-19 and Colossians 2:6-7. In both of these passages, the word “rooted” comes from the Greek word *errizomenoi*, which also uses the base word *menó*.

Together, these passages create images of plants, rooted and well-established, remaining connected to the source of nutrients and survival. It is the same for us in our relationship with Christ. To grow and to bear fruit, to flourish as His own children, we must draw continuously from the presence of Christ. Any disturbance or disconnection leaves us fruitless and vulnerable.

Oswald Chambers describes the importance of consistently abiding with Christ in shaping our nature, or the responses and behaviors that come naturally and easily to us:

“If we do not go on practicing day by day and week by week, working out what God has worked in, when a crisis comes God’s grace is there right enough, but our natures are not. Our natures have not been brought into line by practice and consequently do not stand by us, and down we go and then we blame God. We must bring our bodily lives into line by practice day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, then when the crisis comes we shall find not only God’s grace but our own natures will stand by us, and the crisis will pass without any disaster at all. Exactly the opposite will happen--the soul will be built up into a stronger attitude toward God.”

Ask yourself today, am I abiding in Christ?

Notes:



Victory Ranch | Moreno Valley, CA | vranch.org

Victory Ranch is an 87-acre ranch located in the foothills of the San Jacinto farming valley - 25 miles east of Riverside, California. Trees dot the once barren hillsides, many of which dwarf the adjacent buildings. The mild winter climate makes the Ranch a great year-round location for camps, retreats, and outdoor education programs. Victory Ranch's facilities comfortably accommodate a minimum of 25 and up to 200 people. Its Spanish-Western buildings stand as a silent reminder of the area's colorful history. God has blessed this ministry as it has reached out to hundreds of campers each year, challenging lives, and influencing people for His honor and glory. Victory Ranch is a ministry of the Regular Baptist Conference of Southern California. When the Ranch is not being used by our association's churches, it is available for rental to Christian groups of like faith and practice.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____

WEEK 14

John 17



Pfeiffer Beach in Big Sur, CA

Those in our community may be wondering about our recent merger. Why did they merge? Will it work out? Will an older generation and a younger generation be able to find a mutual mission? Will they learn to love in the way that God loves His Son Jesus? The world is watching. How can we be the greatest witness possible to a watching world?

John 17 gives us some help. Jesus stops his busy ministry to pray first for Himself, then for His disciples, and then for those who would come after them. (He prays for us.) One of the themes of His prayer is an appeal for oneness. Not just any unity, but one that is modeled after the relationship between Jesus and God the father. Jesus wanted believers to be unified with each other and with God so that:

- a. the world would believe that Jesus was sent by God and
- b. that the world would recognize that God loves believers in a deep, intimate, and lasting way just as the Father loves His special only begotten son.

Jesus lived His life totally dependent on His heavenly Father. He did nothing of His own initiative. In the same way, for the Christian, He is the Vine and we are the branches. The only way to have a successful mission for God is to live a life of total dependence on our Heavenly Father. Furthermore, the Son only did that which pleased the Father (John 8:29). Are we living our lives only to bring pleasure to the One who has sent us into the world?

The love of Christians for God and for one another is a powerful witness to unbelievers. In order to love the way God loved his Son, we must allow the ministry of the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, to grow our love for each other. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). As people see the distinct unity and mutual love of God’s people, the credibility of our witness will grow.

As you read this week, think on how Jesus lived a life of submission to His father. Search out how much He wanted to please His father. Then consider the love relationship between the Father and the Son. How can that spiritual unity be patterned in our church? The world is watching.

Notes:

Notes:

SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



Nate & Rachel Waldock

Cambodia | nathan@waldockfamily.com

Baptist Mid-Missions' first couple entered Cambodia in September 2000; a second couple joined them in August 2001 and a third in 2009. Church planting and leadership training are vital in Cambodia today as most of the country lacks a church of any kind. A great need in Cambodia is for a Bible school. There are few national pastors in the country, and most of them have had little biblical education. Cambodia has had such a long history of Buddhism that it has become tied to Cambodia's national identity. To switch religions is seen as a break from family ties, especially in the countryside. The number of professing Christians is growing, and Christianity is becoming more accepted, but the churches are small and need help in discipling believers and developing in them a heart for evangelism.

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____

WEEK 15

John 18-19



Grand Canyon

“In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world...” John 18:37

Why did Jesus come into the world?

Many of us have read John 18 without ever stopping to really focus on verse 37, where Jesus explicitly tells us exactly why He came into the world. Yet this verse is quite possibly one of the most important verses in understanding the entire Bible. Reread verse 37. Why did Jesus come?

Salvation is closely tied to the concept of understanding and loving the truth. In John 14:6, Jesus calls Himself “the way, the TRUTH, and the life” and declares that no one comes to the Father except through Him. Romans 1:25 describes the depravity of mankind as the result of exchanging the truth of God for a lie, and 2 Thessalonians 2: 10 tells us “They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

If our enemy is “the Father of lies” and he uses these lies to take us captive, then it should come as no surprise that Jesus’ saving work is centered on testifying to the truth. In the New Testament, Jesus says, “I tell you the truth” over 75 times. Again and again, He emphasizes this idea. Take a few moments to look up the following verses:

- John 1:17
- John 17:17
- John 4:24
- John 8:32

Jesus’ purpose of testifying to the truth did not end with His resurrection and ascension. Reread John 14:16 and John 16:13. In His physical absence from earth, Jesus provides us with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth who guides us into all truth. Remember, the Holy Spirit is one

with the Father and the Son. If Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to testify to the truth, the Holy Spirit shares that same purpose. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-12 and pay special attention to the reasons the Holy Spirit has been given to us.

John 18:37 may not be the most well-known verse in the Bible, but John 3:16 probably is. The promise of salvation is held in the words "whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". When we believe in Him, we put our faith in the truth--the truth of who He is, His finished work on the cross, and His promise of eternal life. Do your thoughts, actions and emotions reflect the truth of what you believe and the One in whom you've placed your faith?

SATURDAY ♦ MISSIONARY MOMENT



NAME: Kevin & Darleen Weston

LOCATION: Village Missions Pastor

EMAIL: westonmissions@gmail.com

Kevin has been actively pursuing missions since 2002, and has served in Russia, Canada, the United States, and Ireland. Darleen served with her parents as missionaries to Guatemala for nine years. She has also taken part in mission trips to Mexico and the United States. They met while serving on a children's ministry team in Georgia and were married in 2009. As early newlyweds, they lived in a small-town community. Living rural was not new for Darleen. On the other hand, Kevin was born and raised in the busy city, but it didn't take long for him to fall in love with the tranquility of rural life. All those trips to the desert and horseback riding came in handy. Little did they know God was preparing them for mission work with Village Missions, a ministry dedicated to keeping country churches alive. Today, Kevin, Darleen, and their six children are serving as missionary pastor in the beautiful rural community of Bethany, Kansas.

WEEK 17

John 20-21



Garden of Gethsemane, Israel

“I have seen the Lord!” After reading this, pause for a moment and think about the seriousness of these words. Close your eyes and imagine what had just happened. Mary, John, and Peter had previously seen Jesus crucified and buried. All of their hope was shattered. There was complete despair. Yet, at the words **“Why are you weeping?”** Christ comforted all of His followers and all of us living in this present time. This is the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Spend a few minutes with the Lord as He comforts you in knowing that you too have seen Him.

“Blessed are they who did not see, yet believed!” You and I are the people Jesus was also referring to. Since we were not alive during the Resurrection, we believe by grace through faith. Although Thomas doubted this truth, it was a doubt that the Lord removed by strengthening the faith of Thomas. Pray to the Lord about your doubts. Spend time talking with Him about how He can strengthen your faith.

As you finish the Gospel of John you will notice the love that Christ has for His followers. List the different ways that Jesus showed His love for His followers found in chapters 20 & 21.

Now list how He has shown His love for you. Spend time thanking the Lord for His blessings.

GREEK GEEK!

John 20:29

μακαριος (mak-ar'-ee-os)

Definition: “blessed, happy, to be envied”

SUNDAY ♦ SERMON NOTES

SPEAKER:

KEY VERSES:

Notes: _____



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Design

Jessamy Maraden

The background is a rich, textured teal watercolor wash. It is accented with delicate, golden-brown botanical illustrations of plants and leaves, scattered primarily along the left and right edges. The overall effect is artistic and serene.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

2021 JUST BELIEVE