

•INSPIRE•

Bible Studies

Sunday Adult Bible Study

Monday Women's Bible Study

Wednesday Noon

Women's Monday Bible Study

(will resume January 6)
Mondays 6:30pm here at church in the Narthex. Study will be based on Ephesians, a letter from Paul. Please see Kellee Skaggs for additional information.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

The book of James, half-brother of Jesus, a letter to the church is written to Jewish believers in his day, but the content of the letter is timeless and timely. James writes that we should turn to God in our trials and live our faith in God's Word. He casts an unfavorable eye on the ways of the world, and calls on believers favoritism in the church and an unhealthy view of money. Finally, he calls all believers to pursue Jesus's Grace and Mercy with passion.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Join Pastor Mike Sunday morning for a bible study on the book of Genesis - "The Beginning".

Altar Flowers 2020

Have a specific date(s) you would like to dedicate flowers? Please fill out the bulletin insert and place it in Carol Plew's mail box. *FYI-If the date is already filled, Carol will move you to the next closest date.*

have a date in mind? Look at the chart on the bulletin board to see what is available.

•GROW•

Youth Confirmation Class

Parents & Students
Class has begun! Wednesdays, at 6:30pm. Questions? contact Pastor Mike
pastor_mike@redeemerwarsaw.org
cell:574-527-9483

Class will resume on January 8th

•Change•

Property Purchase

At the Special Voter's Assembly held on August 22, the Voter's approved to purchase the property next door via a mortgage from the current owner. We now look to put this purchase to work for Him. Next will be the conversation as to how this will be accomplished.

Debt Reduction Envelopes are available at the welcome center

Lincoln School Part Time Tutor

Lincoln School Principal Cathy Snyder is looking for someone to be a tutor Monday thru Friday from 1:30-3:30. They would work 1 on 1 or with a small group on math or reading. Lincoln School will train. This is a paid position. Please call Cathy at 267-7474 for an interview.



Redeemer Volunteering & Events

Sign up sheet

(Please place sign-ups in the Office mailbox)

Name: _____

☐ I'd like to donate to the Altar Flowers (\$25)

in honor of: _____ on this date: _____

Please use this insert and place in Carol Plew's mail box

I'd like to join an awesome Bible Study! attend as many as you like!

☐ Sunday Morning Bible Study Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

☐ Wednesday Noon Bible Study

☐ I would like assistance from the Youth Group
(yard work, cleaning, a visit ...)

☐ I would like to help with Sunday School, IMPACT, nursery

☐ Volunteering at Lincoln School & Little Steps Daycare.
I am interested in learning about the many opportunities on how to implement our Vision Statement.

* **Parents of Sunday School Aged Kids** We have begun practice during Sunday school & IMPACT for the Christmas Eve service. If you would like your child to participate, please see Liz Slone or contact the office.

* **Next Saturday, December 22, 9am** there will be a Christmas Eve practice. Please plan on attending if you are part of the service. We will do a "run" through.

Joy in the Desert

It is hard to show the joy people are really looking for, if you don't have it, yourself.

Yet Jesus has abundantly provided it for us.

As Paul put it, *"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32 NIV)

1) True _____ can't be found on our own.

- a) Solomon said, *"With all my heart I used wisdom to study and explore everything done under heaven."* (Ecc. 1:13 GW)
- b) But his quest for _____ *got him nowhere.*
- c) The conclusion he reached was: *"Now I know that this is like trying to catch the wind. With a lot of wisdom comes a lot of heartache. The greater your knowledge, the greater your pain."* (Ecc. 1:17b-18 GW)

2) Happiness often takes us _____ the desert.

- a) For example:
 - OT; Israel was tested in the desert for 40 years before the Promised Land.
 - NT; the desert was also where the devil tempted Jesus for 40 days.
- b) True happiness often winds through the _____, for a time of testing.
- c) But there's good news... With His Spirit, God can use it to make us _____!

3) God gives us _____ for the journey.

- a) Imprisoned by Herod, _____ was discouraged and dejected.
- b) Whether doubting himself, or concerned about his followers. John, sent them to _____ for an answer.
- c) Jesus simply tells them, *"Go back, and tell John what you hear and see: Blind people see again, lame people are walking, those with skin diseases are made clean, deaf people hear again, dead people are brought back to life, and poor people hear the Good News."* (Matthew 11:4-5 GW)

That was good news for John!

- Although John wouldn't get out of prison, God's Kingdom was still advancing.
- Meaning: anyone who trusts in Jesus is free from the prison of sin & death forever.

Close: In the same way, embrace the desert in your life.

As James put it, *"We consider those who endure to be blessed. You have heard about Job's endurance. You saw that the Lord ended Job's suffering because the Lord is compassionate and merciful."* (James 5:11)

God has something beautiful that He wants to grow in you!

"An Extra Boost"

(Gabriel said) *"And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."* (Luke 1:36-37)

Have you ever taken a little child to wash his hands or get a drink of water from the drinking fountain? If so, you've probably had to boost him up. Toddlers are too small to reach it on their own. But a boost from an adult knee or a lift under the armpits, and they're good to go.

I rather think this is what God was doing with Mary when the angel told her about Elizabeth's pregnancy. Mary was handling the conversation well; she did not reject what the angel told her, and all she asked was how this baby would happen. But God was asking her to believe one of the greatest miracles in human history. And so, even though she didn't ask, He gave her a little boost-He told her about Elizabeth's pregnancy, which was a fact she could go and see for herself, and He also provided her with a safe place to stay while she adjusted to the incredible news of her own pregnancy.

See how kind God is! Mary didn't ask for a sign, like Zechariah did, but God gave her one anyway. Mary didn't ask for protection against her parents' anger or Joseph's grief. But God provided anyway. He gave her that extra boost that made an impossible situation just a bit easier.

When God calls us to serve or to suffer in ways that are too much for us, we can ask Him to give us a boost in our faith as well. The father of a troubled child did this when he said to Jesus, *"I believe; help my unbelief!"* (Mark 9:24b) Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Read God's Word, the Bible-that is a time-tested place where people find help in time of trouble. Come to the Lord's Supper. And remember your Savior loves you dearly and has said to you that He will never leave you nor forsake you (see Hebrews 13:5).

THE PRAYER: Lord Holy Spirit, help me when my faith is weak and the challenges are great. Strengthen me in You. Amen.