

## **Fishers of men by God's grace and for His glory**

### **Introduction**

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

### **Adult Topical Class (Bible Studies for Life – Owning A Faith That Matters)**

**Teacher:** Craig Pleasants

**Lesson Title:** Praying Faith

**Focal Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Theme:** Faith looks to God to provide what we need.

**Lesson Overview:** This week we examine what Jesus taught His disciples about prayer in Luke 11. The Lord's model prayer in verses 1-4 helps refocus our attitude and priorities on God and reminds us that in Christ, we have all the resources we need. Jesus goes on in verses 5-10 to emphasize that persistence is an important aspect of the believer's prayer life. In verses 11-13 Jesus contrasts the loving but flawed nature of a human father with the perfect loving Heavenly Father by pointing out "*how much more*" (13) He faithfully provides for us with good gifts and unending grace. It is vitally important that we set aside time for prayer and in faith, trust that God will provide what we need. As you pray for others, be sure to let them know that you are praying for them, that they might give God the glory for "great things He hath done."

*<sup>9</sup>And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Luke 11:9*

### **Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Genesis 1-19)**

**Teacher:** Thomas Littleton

**Lesson Title:** Impatience

**Focal Scripture:** Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-6

**Theme:** God expects His people to patiently wait for His timing.

**Lesson Overview:** In this week's lesson we will consider how Abram and Sarai impatiently tried to fulfill the promises God made to them through their own devices, instead of waiting on the Lord's timing. The birth of Ishmael through Hagar resulted in turmoil in Abram's family that still resonates today. Through these events we are taught to stop trying to figure out a way to make things happen according to our own wisdom (even though we may have the best of intentions), and instead trust and wait on the Lord, for there are no shortcuts to God's plans. Believers exhibit mature faith when we patiently trust in God's perfect wisdom and timing, and such faith will be "*counted*" "*for righteousness*" (6).

*<sup>1</sup>Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psalm 127:1*

### Closing Thoughts

Appropriate for the season (Valentines Day is next week), my thoughts here focus on love. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18 to tell us the two greatest and foundational commandments were (1) to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and (2) to love our neighbor as our self.

*<sup>36</sup>Master, which is the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup>Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Matthew 22:36-40***

Everything we do in church must “hang” or be grounded in and supported by such love, “as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us” (Ephesians 5:1-2a).

Recall in the message to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7, they were commended for their hard work, proper doctrine, and intolerance of evil; yet they were reprimanded for leaving their first love. May our church always be known for our love for God and our love for one another.

*<sup>20</sup>But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, <sup>21</sup>Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. **Jude 1:20-21***

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Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God’s word together.