

## **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 – Serving Alongside Others)**

**Teacher:** Craig Pleasants

**Lesson Title:** Jonathan

**Focal Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:1-4, 19:1-4, 23:15-18

**Theme:** Don't let cultural expectations define your role.

**Lesson Overview:** Our lesson for this week considers Jonathan's relationship with David whom he loved "*as his own soul*" (1 & 3) and respected even against the wishes of his father, Saul, who sought to kill David. Jonathan did not fight to succeed his father as king, but instead entered a covenant with David and surrendered to God's plan. As true friends they trusted and encouraged each other's faith in God. Jonathan was content to be in a supportive role and experienced the peace of being in God's will, instead of seeking his own honor or position. May we each obediently follow God's direction and find contentment with the role that God has called us to fulfill.

*<sup>16</sup>And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. **1 Samuel 23:16***

### **Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Acts 1-12)**

**Teacher:** Thomas Littleton

**Lesson Title:** Healing

**Focal Scripture:** Acts 9:32-43

**Theme:** God invites His followers to be instruments of His power.

**Lesson Overview:** In this week's passage we'll consider two miraculous healings that God worked through Peter: Aeneas who suffered eight years from palsy, and Tabitha/Dorcus who had died. When people saw these miracles, they "*turned to the Lord*" (35) and "*believed*" (42). God's miraculous works led to His saving work, the greatest miracle of all. We need to be alert to recognize God's miracles, praise Him, and testify to others. May we be good stewards of God's blessings and serve Him with our time, talents, and possessions which are entrusted to us to use for God's glory, and minister to people's needs in a way that honors Christ, that others might turn and believe in Him.

*<sup>34</sup>And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately. **Acts 9:34***

**Closing Thoughts**

With the tropical storm in the news this week, I thought about the scope and power of such storms and reflected on Jesus' power over even the wind and seas.

*<sup>26</sup>And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup>But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him! **Matthew 8:26-27***

The disciples were seasoned fishermen and were very much afraid for their lives because of the stormy seas. I read that storms that arise on the Sea of Galilee can sometimes produce 20-foot waves, and they would have been in a relatively small fishing boat. In such a precarious position, they turned to Jesus, who had been sleeping, who then spoke and the storm ceased. Now the disciples felt fear for a different reason; they knew they were in the very presence of God, Who alone could wield such great power "*that even the winds and the sea obey.*" God can control the storms of a troubled heart in the same way. May we never underestimate His power for we indeed serve a mighty God.

*<sup>17</sup>Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: **Jeremiah 32:17***

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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.