

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 – My Encounter with Jesus)

Teachers: Craig Pleasants & Bob Kemble

Lesson Title: Jesus Opened My Eyes to the Truth

Focal Scripture: John 9:1-7,32-33,35-38

Theme: Jesus led me to increasingly see who He is.

Lesson Overview: Our lesson for this week focuses on the account of Jesus restoring sight to the man that was born blind. This occurred on the Sabbath and according to the teaching of the Pharisees, kneading clay and healing were considered work and forbidden on that day; thereby increasing their animosity toward Jesus. This miracle declared Jesus to be the Light of the world (5) and exposed the spiritual blindness of these religious leaders. The healed man progressed from gaining physical sight (7), to gaining spiritual sight and seeing Jesus as the Messiah, and culminating in a declaration of faith and worship – “*Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him*” (38). When we encounter Jesus and see the world through Him, we see the truth. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is still at work ministering to the needs of His people. As we grow in the faith and knowledge of Jesus, we increasingly desire to worship and serve Him, and to help others see Him as their Savior.

¹⁵But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. Psalm 86:15

⁹But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: 1 Peter 2:9

Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – John 12-21)

Teachers: Janice Willis & Thomas Littleton

Lesson Title: Peace I Leave

Focal Scripture: John 14:16-29

Theme: Jesus offers peace to those who trust in Him.

Lesson Overview: Our scripture for this week is from the passage where Jesus promises to provide the Holy Spirit, “*another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever*” (16). The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within all believers, powerfully working for and with us to bring us “*unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ*” (Ephesians 4:13). As Jesus continued to reassure His disciples He stated, “*because I live, ye shall live also*” (19) referring to His imminent victory over death at the empty tomb. Believers do not keep His commandments to earn His love, but because we already love Him (21-24). The Holy Spirit continues to teach and remind us of what Jesus said, further revealing Christ to us. (26). It is through the work of the Spirit that we can experience peace with God and with one another,

unlike anything the world can offer (27). Even in adversity our troubled hearts can find comfort and be calmed through His indwelling presence.

¹¹*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (give life to) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **Romans 8:11***

¹³*In whom (Jesus) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word (message) of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest (guaranteeing deposit) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. **Ephesians 1:13-14***

Closing Thoughts

Our weekly Bible reading has recently taken us through the book of Hebrews, and a couple of verses stood out to me regarding one of our responsibilities as Christians, exhortation.

Exhort, Exhortation – To encourage. To urge by strong argument, advice, or appeal. To make urgent appeal. To urge earnestly or advise strongly.

¹³*But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. **Hebrews 3:13***

²⁵*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **Hebrews 10:25***

Paul, in Romans, lists this among the many gifts which God has given to build up His church.

⁵*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ^{8a}Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: **Romans 12:5-8a***

An important benefit of church attendance is the encouragement and help which other Christians provide each week. May we remember to wholeheartedly embrace this important practice and honor God in loving service to others.

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