

## 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:** David

**Focal Scripture:** 1 Samuel 18:5-16

**Theme:** Serve with excellence even when that work is not appreciated by others.

**Lesson Overview:** This week we consider David's service to King Saul, even as Saul grew more resentful and jealous of him, and attempted to kill him with a javelin. Through it all, David remained humble, obedient, and trustworthy. "*Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him*" (12). David continued to honor God in everything he did and God blessed him for it. In whatever we do, may it be done "*wisely*" and to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

*<sup>14</sup>And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.*

**1 Samuel 18:14**

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

**Teacher:** Thomas Littleton

**Lesson Title:** Calling

**Focal Scripture:** Acts 9:3-16

**Theme:** Jesus reveals Himself as the risen Messiah.

**Lesson Overview:** Our passage for this week relates the conversion experience of Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus. Traveling for the purpose of persecuting and arresting Christians, he encountered Jesus and his life and purpose changed. Saul, "*trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" (6). "*He was three days without sight*" (9) until God directed Ananias to go to Saul and put his hand on him "*that he might receive his sight*" (12) and understand God's call to bear the gospel. God calls and uses people in all kinds of ways, and we will be held accountable for how we respond to Him. May we faithfully accept and serve Jesus, and encourage and affirm God's work in the lives of others.

*<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said unto him (Ananias), Go thy way: for he (Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: Acts 9:15*

*<sup>20</sup>And straightway he (Paul) preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*

**Acts 9:20**

**Closing Thoughts**

While watching some of the Olympics, and considering the training and effort that the athletes put in while pursuing medals, I'm reminded of scriptures which apply this athletic analogy to our spiritual lives.

<sup>14</sup>*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

**Philippians 3:14**

<sup>24</sup>*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. <sup>25</sup>And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. **1 Corinthians 9:24-25***

In ancient times the athletes competed to win laurel crowns which would soon wither, or were “corruptible.” On the other hand, we as Christians “run” or “strive” for “a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:4). Our salvation is a free gift of grace, but that does not remove our responsibility of faithful obedience. While most people emphasize physical fitness, fewer folks recognize the critical importance of developing their spiritual health. Paul emphasized this point in the following verse:

<sup>8</sup>*For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. **1 Timothy 4:8***

May we each continue to develop our faith by exercising the abilities God has given us in the service of the church; keeping our focus on Jesus and with the helping power of the Holy Spirit as we run the race of life.

<sup>1b</sup>*let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2a</sup>Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; **Hebrews 12:1b-2a***

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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.