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.

<u>Adult Topical Class (Bible Studies for Life – Confident in the Face of Hard Questions)</u>

Teacher: Craig Pleasants

Lesson Title: God Deserves Our Thanks

Focal Scripture: Psalm 65:1-13

Theme: We have so much to thank God for.

Lesson Overview: We close out this quarter with a special lesson focused on Thanksgiving. God is so faithful to us and has showered us with numerous blessings. He is deserving of our thanks every day. Psalm 65 reminds us of why we have reason to be so grateful. He is attentive to our prayers, offers us mercy and the gift of forgiveness, in His greatness and power is the only guaranteed source of hope, and He supplies all our needs "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). May we resolve to genuinely and more frequently express our thankfulness and praise to God.

Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Mark)

Teacher: Thomas Littleton

Lesson Title: Alive

Focal Scripture: Mark 16:1-14

Theme: Jesus's empty tomb attests to His resurrection.

Lesson Overview: We wrap up our study in Mark with the account of Jesus' resurrection. The women that came early to the tomb discovered it open and empty! Their worries and cares of moving the heavy stone and properly anointing the body for burial were no longer necessary, just as the resurrection frees us from many of our worries and fears. The angel gave them straightforward instructions to go and tell (7) what they had witnessed, and they went out quickly in fear and amazement (8). Our focal passage concludes with a summary of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Each of Jesus's followers had to overcome their unbelief and discover the truth that Jesus had indeed risen. From that day forward, they embraced the gospel message of the resurrected Lord and went on to turn "the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). Pray that the Lord would guide and use us to tell others about Him.

⁶And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. **Mark 16:6**

¹¹Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. **Psalm 65:11**

³O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth forever. **Psalm 136:3**

²⁰And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. Mark 16:20

Closing Thoughts

Reflecting upon this Thanksgiving season, I realize we can too easily take God's blessings for granted, or even worse we can pridefully feel independent and self-sufficient, just as those in Nehemiah's day when they did not obey and serve God even "in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them" (Nehemiah 9:35). May we each examine ourselves, confess our failures, trust His forgiveness, and commit to draw closer to God and ever praise Him for all He's done.

For All He's Done (by Greater Vision)

Every morning when I wake to see the sun
I can't help but think about the Lord
And all the things He's done
He meets my every need
You know He's been so good to me
And I can't help but praise the Lord for all He's done.

There are many things that I could praise God for
And if I started now, until I die
There'd still be many more
If I could mention only one
I'd have to thank Him for His Son
Now that's enough to praise the Lord for all He's done.

Chorus:

For all He's done
I'm gonna lift my hands and praise Him
For all He's done
I'll try to live my life to please Him
Even though I don't deserve to live
My life has just begun
And I can't help but praise the Lord for all He's done.

⁶As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

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