

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 – Thrive: Living on Purpose)

Teacher: Craig Pleasants

Lesson Title: Purpose Questioned

Focal Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

Theme: Apart from God, life is meaningless.

Quarter Overview: Our initial six lessons help us realize what it practically looks like to live life within the purpose for which we were created, as we explore finding purpose and meaning in Christ. The second half of the quarter explores Biblical examples of family conflict to help us discover how we can overcome such challenges in our own lives.

Lesson Overview: Life can often feel like a hamster wheel. This week's lesson draws from Ecclesiastes as we consider "*what profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun*" (3). Apart from God, we cannot find purpose or meaning in life and our efforts can feel futile. In God, we can have confidence that history is moving toward God's appointed end and we find our ultimate hope in Jesus, our Savior and Lord. We are to share the gospel and point others to the One who gives purpose to our lives.

¹³*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. **Ecclesiastes 12:13***

Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Acts 13-28)

Teacher: Thomas Littleton

Lesson Title: Sent

Focal Scripture: Acts 13:1-12

Theme: Believers are set apart for God's purposes.

Quarter Overview: This quarter will focus on the second half of Acts as we continue to follow the advancement of the gospel, studying the missionary journeys of Paul and the evidences of the transformative power of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Overview: Chapter 13 relates the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas as they were sent out by the church at Antioch. They encountered Satan's opposition to these efforts via "*Elymas the sorcerer*" (8), but through the power of the Holy Spirit the gospel continued to spread and prosper. God calls believers to be His witnesses wherever He leads us, starting with our families and friends. We should be prepared for opposition and rely on the Holy Spirit to empower us to do the kingdom work He calls us to do.

²*As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. ³And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. **Acts 13:2-3***

Closing Thoughts

^{14b}*and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

Esther 4:14b

This week my thoughts are with these words of Mordecai as he asked Queen Esther to help. They saw that God had placed them where they were for a purpose, so they seized the moment and acted. Have you ever considered that God placed each of us exactly where we are “*for such a time as this*”? Each of us has unique contact opportunities within our sphere of influence; whether it be family, co-workers, doctor office employees, lawn maintenance workers, etc. God’s intention is that we respond to our salvation with gratitude and serve His church right where we are.

¹⁰*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* **Ephesians 2:10**

May we be committed to use our unique influence to share the Gospel with those around us, and may God prepare hearts and give us wisdom to make the most of our opportunities for outreach.

⁵*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.* **Colossians 4:5**

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