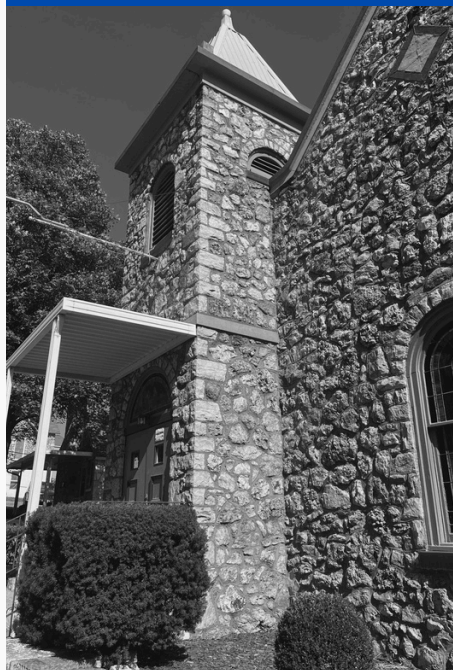


# COMMUNITY GROUPS NEWSLETTER



## STRUCTURE OF EVENING

1. Begin with announcing and discussing the upcoming events listed to the left of this page.
2. Pray through the following:
  - a. Church health (spiritually and physically)
  - b. Upcoming ministries
  - c. Our evangelistic efforts
  - d. This evening's discussion
3. Talk through the plan for community group discussion time
  - a. Based upon sermons preached on Sundays
  - b. Will only be beneficial if there is discussion
4. Work through the questions provided below.
5. Pray that we may live out what we've discussed this evening.

## WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Joy Luncheon (April 14)
- Men's Retreat (April 18)
- Missions Fair (April 26)
- Thayer High Baccalaureate (April 29)
- VBS Volunteers Meeting (May 3)
- VBS (June 7-11)

## PRAYER PROMPTS

1. Pray that our church might be holy and blameless, above reproach, that we might be kept from sin.
2. Pray God would pour out His Spirit upon us that we might walk with Him closely and intimately.
3. Pray for our ministries and their effectiveness (personal evangelism, discipleship, children's, youth, etc.).
4. Ask God's blessing upon our leaders.
5. Pray for those in our body who are experiencing pain and loss, that God would grant them a supernatural peace.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## **MARCH 1, MATTHEW 10:1-15**

1. Charles Spurgeon stated, "Soul winning is the chief business of the Christian minister; it should be the main pursuit of every true believer." Would you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. In his sermon Jalen used the following quote, "Share the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." What is the problem with this statement?
3. In verses 2-4 of chapter 10 of Matthew the list of the twelve is given. None of these disciples were professional ministers, they were regular guys who God called to do amazing things. Notice the jobs/reputations these men had. Notice the region from which they came. Nothing about these men said "influencer". Yet they were used to impact the world. Why do you think Jesus chose them? And should that impact the way we view ourselves in relation to the commission we have been given? How?
4. After looking at the list of disciples and considering their qualifications by the world's standards. What makes them stand out? Was it their own gifts and talents or something else?
5. If the Holy Spirit is living in us, and if we have been given various spiritual gifts for the purpose of advancing his kingdom, what are we, what are you doing with the resources that have been awarded to you to aid in the building of His kingdom?

## **MARCH 8, MATTHEW 10:26-33**

1. In looking at our text for this week, what would you say is the reoccurring theme?
2. Why do you think that Jesus tells his disciples "Do not fear"? What is that saying to us today?
3. In verse 26 Jesus speaks of "...nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known." What is meant by that statement? Also, look at the Apostle Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 4:5. What is the synthesized truth of the two verses?
4. Based on the previous questions, what would you consider your greatest motivation for missions? What is your greatest fear concerning God's call to missions in your life? Where is God calling you to move from being silent to open confession?
5. Verses 34-39 make some seriously difficult claims. He is warning that the gospel is not peaceful, that He did not come to "bring peace," yet in Isaiah 9:6 we see that he is called the "Prince of Peace." How does this fit together?

## **MARCH 29, MARK 11:1-11**

1. In the book of Mark, we see the continual building up of Jesus's Messianic identity, and as it does this, we start to see tension arise between darkness and light, between the religious leaders of the day and Jesus. We also see tension or anxiety/worry start to appear in His disciples. Mark shows us three times that tension arose. Look at Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31; Mark 10:32. How did the early disciples respond to the tension? What does that tension look like for us today? How should we respond to this tension?
2. In Mark 11 we see Jesus ride into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. What is the significance of Him riding the donkey colt? See 1 Kings 1:38; Zechariah 9:9. However, in His return to Jerusalem, He will not be riding a colt, but a white horse. What is the significance of Him riding the white horse?
3. As Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, He was honored, the people of Jerusalem threw their coats and palm leaves on the ground before Him, they shouted "Hosanna, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna is the highest!" Three days later the very same people were shouting "Give us Barabbas!" and "Crucify Him!" How is that possible? What changed? How does our culture mimic the people and culture of Jerusalem of old?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT.)

4. We see several authors speak of man's fickle nature. (Ezekiel 33:31; Hosea 6:4) James 3:9-12 says "this cannot not be," but the reality is "it be." Why do you think man/we are fickle when it comes to our relationship with Jesus Christ? How do we move away from our fickle nature, and move to complete and total obedience to the calling Christ has placed on our lives? How do we encourage/build up one another as we run after Him?