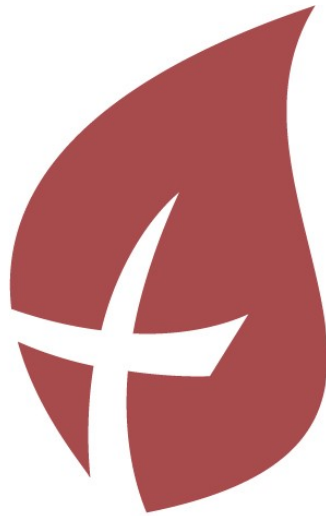


# ***Sunday Morning Worship***

***November 16, 2025***



**FIRSTBAPTIST  
CHURCH  
UPPERMARLBORO**

**7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

**301-952-0117 :: [www.fbcum.org](http://www.fbcum.org) :: [fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com)**

# ***Order of Worship***

***November 16, 2025***

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Silent Prayer**

**Call to Worship — Lamentations 3:21-24**

***Song — Great Is Thy Faithfulness***

***Song — God Over All***

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Scripture Reading — Micah 7:7-10**

***Song — His Mercy Is More***

**Prayer of Thanks**

**Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

**Message — Zach Schlegel**

**“Light for Those Sitting in Darkness”**

**Luke 1:57-80**

***Song — All I Have Is Christ***

**Benediction**

**Comfort Rooms:** To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

**Visitors & Guests:** Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

## Call to Worship — Lamentations 3:21-24 (ESV)

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- <sup>21</sup> But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:
- <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;
- <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.
- <sup>24</sup> “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,  
“therefore I will hope in him.”

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas Chisholm | William Runyan | John Piper

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### Verse 1:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be

### Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

### Verse 2:

I could not love Thee, so blind and unfeeling  
Covenant promises fell not to me.  
Then without warning, desire or deserving,  
I found my Treasure, my pleasure, in Thee.

### Verse 3:

I have no merit to woo or delight Thee,  
I have no wisdom or pow'rs to employ;  
Yet in thy mercy, how pleasing thou find'st me,  
This is Thy pleasure: that Thou art my joy.

### Verse 4:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope  
for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

# God Over All

Devon Kauflin

## Verse 1:

God over all  
Giver of life and health and breath  
I want to sing of Your love  
Came as a man  
Humble, You died the sinner's death  
I want to sing of Your love

## Chorus:

Your love has saved me  
By Your grace I now draw near, and  
Your love has set me  
Free to glorify Your name  
And I, I want to sing of Your love

## Verse 2:

I'll never forget  
That You have bought me with Your blood  
I want to sing of Your love  
In all I do  
May Your great love be shining through  
I want to sing of Your love

## Verse 3:

And on that day  
When You come back to claim Your own  
Yes, we will sing of Your love  
Then we'll bow down  
Praise You forever at Your throne  
Yes, we will sing of Your love

## Scripture Reading — Micah 7:7-10 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will look to the LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation;  
my God will hear me

<sup>8</sup> Rejoice not over me, O my enemy;  
when I fall, I shall rise;  
when I sit in darkness,  
the LORD will be a light to me.

<sup>9</sup> I will bear the indignation of the LORD  
because I have sinned against him,  
until he pleads my cause  
and executes judgment for me.

He will bring me out to the light;  
I shall look upon his vindication.

<sup>10</sup> Then my enemy will see,  
and shame will cover her who said to me,  
“Where is the LORD your God?”  
My eyes will look upon her;  
now she will be trampled down  
like the mire of the streets.

# His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell | Matt Papa

~~~~~

## **Verse 1:**

What love could remember  
no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing  
He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## **Chorus:**

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more  
Stronger than darkness and new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## **Verse 2:**

What patience would wait  
as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## **Verse 3:**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment  
His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

## **Sermon Notes**

### **“Light for Those Sitting in Darkness” :: Luke 1:57-80**

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# All I Have Is Christ

Jordan Kauflin

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## **Verse 1:**

I once was lost in darkest night  
Yet thought I knew the way  
The sin that promised joy and life  
Had led me to the grave  
I had no hope that You would own  
A rebel to Your will  
And if You had not loved me first  
I would refuse You still

## **Verse 2:**

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace

## **Chorus:**

Hallelujah!  
All I have is Christ  
Hallelujah!  
Jesus is my life

## **Verse 3:**

Now Lord I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow Your commands  
Could never come from me  
O Father use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You

## **This Week at First Baptist Church**

### **Sunday, November 16**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
6:00 PM Youth Night

### **Monday, November 17**

### **Tuesday, November 18**

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study  
6:30 PM Elders Meeting

### **Wednesday, November 19**

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir  
6:30 PM Elder-led Bible Study  
AWANA  
Adult Choir & Band Rehearsal

### **Thursday, November 20**

### **Friday, November 21**

### **Saturday, November 22**

9:00 AM Church Security Training

### **Sunday, November 23**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
6:00 PM Thanksgiving Prayer and Dessert Fellowship

## **Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church**

### **Saturday, November 22**

9:00 AM — Church Security Training

### **Sunday, November 23**

6:00 PM — Thanksgiving Prayer and Dessert Fellowship

### **Saturday, December 6**

11:00 AM — Ladies Christmas Tea

### **Sunday, December 7**

Budget Review Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Sunday, December 14**

Church Members' Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Wednesday, December 24**

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve Worship



# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of November 16

### **Prayer of the week:**

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as an inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the prayer of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:9a-10:

*“9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you...*

*10 to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:*

*bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

We recognize our need for God’s help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

### **Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God’s word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God’s glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

### **Prayer items outside our church:**

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)

- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

#### **Particular prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray for our ministry leaders, deacons, and elders during this budget season as they pray and prepare a budget to present to the church. Pray for wisdom and a God-centered vision for how to use the resources that God has given our church. (James 1:5)
- Pray that good spiritual fruit would come from discipleship efforts in small groups, one to one meetings, and as people show hospitality to others in our church. (1 Pt 4:9; Gal 6:2)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray we would live and interact with one another in a way that reveals God's steadfast love and mercy to the world. (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

**Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim and Pat Ernster, Lucie Lowe, Katie Schlegel (death of grandmother), Family of Melissa Thomaswicks (died Oct 29), Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker**

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

## Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” is meant to bring to your attention active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope that each month you will pray for all those serving and consider how you may support their efforts. *You may notify us if you would like to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM by using the Digital Communication Card (see QR code on the back of this bulletin). Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

### Women’s Ministry

The FBCUM Women’s Ministry exists to provide Christ-centered opportunities for women to grow together, be equipped, and serve. This ministry facilitates women building up one another in love for the work of the ministry through prayer, discipleship, teaching, fellowship, service and evangelism. The Women’s Ministry supports all FBCUM women and facilitates connections, coordination, and resources for: discipleship, Bible studies, fellowship gatherings, evangelism/works of service opportunities, training topics for practical Christian living, and women’s retreats/events.

The Vision of the ministry is to foster a strong foundation encouraging spiritual growth, obedience, good works, and reliance on the grace of God to His praise and glory. Through the Women’s Ministry we strive for a commitment to love, unity, service, diversity, equipping, and prayer.

Last week we learned that there are ongoing activities in the Women’s Ministry like the Prince George’s County Dept. of Corrections (DOC) Bible study with the women inmates. DOC inmates may choose to attend a 6—8 week study, sharing insights and prayer requests. This has been an intensely rewarding opportunity to see God’s word impact others for Christ. This is enhanced by the Monthly Zoom gathering where members of the team pray for the teams leading the Bible studies, members of FBCUM and the inmates that have shared their prayer requests.

We also learned that there are special events that occur throughout the year, specifically, gatherings where all of the ladies of FBCUM come together to enjoy workshops, fellowships, conferences or the Spring Retreat. The focus is building a strong foundation relying on the Word of God and encouraging one another in spiritual growth in Christian love.

## Ministry Spotlight

Volunteers are needed to serve in the Women's Ministry. Use your gifts to assist with the upcoming Spring Women's Retreat by helping with various event needs like event logo design, music, event check-in, preparing goodie bags, name tags, etc. Trish Crandell is the POC for volunteering for this event.



*A testimony from Trish Crandell:*

*Serving on the Women's Ministry Team has given me the opportunity to work alongside these godly women (Cathy Baskin, Katie Schlegel, Monica Kergel, and Tara Jackson) who love the Lord and the women at FBCUM. I've been encouraged by their faithful service, wisdom, and desire to serve the Lord and the women at FBCUM well.*

*I've been blessed by the commitment of the DOC Bible study volunteers who sacrifice their time twice a month to share the love of Christ with women inmates who attend the Bible studies.*

*Gathering with other women in the monthly Zoom prayer meeting has become something that I look forward to each month as we pray for specific prayer requests and the work of the DOC ministry overall. I love hearing updates on the work that is being accomplished and how much the women inmates appreciate our prayers and **prayer letters**. It's exciting to hear about all that God is doing in hearts and lives of all involved with the DOC ministry.*

How can we pray for the Women's Ministry?

- Pray for the teams who are already going into the DOC and for more volunteers.
- Pray for conversion followed by discipleship of the inmates at the DOC.
- Pray for more women to volunteer to participate in the once a month Zoom meetings.
- Pray for the upcoming Spring Retreat.
- Pray for the Women's ministry team that they would be faithful in the work that God has called them to and that all would be done for the glory of God.
- Pray that the women of FBCUM would be encouraged to love and do good works by the efforts of the Women's Ministry.

***Women's Ministry has a place for you to serve, please contact Cathy Baskin or Trish Crandell for more details or to join this ministry!***

# Announcements

1. **Church Security Training.** The church is hosting a security training led by our own Bill Lowry on Saturday, November 22, from 9 am - 10:15 am. This is open to anyone who would like to attend, especially hospitality team members and children's ministry volunteers.

2. **Thanksgiving Prayer and Dessert Fellowship :: Sunday, Nov 23, at 6pm.** Join us for this special prayer meeting as we dedicate our time of prayer to giving thanks to God for His many blessings. Afterward, stay and enjoy a time of fellowship with one another over dessert and a warm beverage. The church will provide drinks. We ask that each family bring a dessert to share that is ready to serve.

3. **Advent Resources for Families.** As we approach the season of advent, our Children's Ministry would like to provide every family with a resource to help your family focus on the reason for the season. The Christmas Promise Advent Calendar and Family Devotional is available as a gift to families with children ages 3 - 11. Please see Pam Jensen at the Welcome Desk to get your free copy.

4. **Ladies' Christmas Tea.** On Saturday, December 6th, FBCUM will host a Ladies' Christmas Tea from 11:00AM-12:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Christmas Tea is an evangelistic and fellowship event for women of FBCUM to invite non-Christian family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors to enjoy a time of festive fellowship, food, and a short gospel message. See Camille Hawit in the Fellowship Hall for information and invitations after the service.

5. **New DiscipleLIFE Classes for Adults Begin Dec 7.** See insert for class descriptions and info.

6. **Young Adults to CrossCon :: January 5-7.** The Young Adults are planning a trip to CrossCon in Louisville, KY, on January 5-7. If you're interested in joining call or text Tre Fields (301-357-2675). Visit [www.crosscon.com](http://www.crosscon.com) to learn more about the conference.

7. **Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- online: click the link or scan the QR code,
- in-person: designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- by mail: send to the church office.

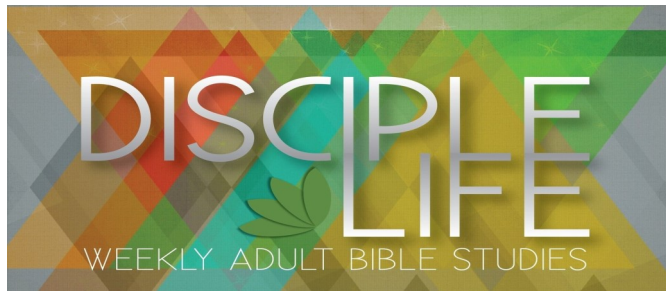


Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.



## **Digital Communication Card**

Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.



## **Winter 2025-26 (Dec. - Feb.) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:**

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 9AM**

To help us prepare, we are asking that everyone sign up for the class they wish to attend by [clicking here](#).

### **Explore the Bible – Matthew Chapters 1-13:**

For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus. By listening to His words and watching His actions, we learn the do's and don'ts of living out our faith. As you study Matthew 1–13, you'll get a firsthand account of what it's like to walk with Jesus each day—and learn what it means to become a citizen of God's kingdom. (Books available in room 117/118 starting Sunday, 11/23.)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 117/118 :: Teachers: Bill Lowry & TBD**
- **Explore the Bible (Women) — Room 115 :: Teacher: Tanya Joy**

*If you are remaining in your current Explore the Bible Class, there is no need to sign up again.*

### **Elective Class — How People Change (Coed):**

"How People Change" is a video-based seminar that helps participants understand the motivations behind their actions and provides a biblical framework for changing long-standing patterns by focusing on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the importance of the cross. Join us as long-time pastors and biblical counselors, Paul David Tripp and Tim Lane, explain how understanding Christ's life, death, and resurrection help lead to lasting personal and behavioral change.

- **Room 114 :: Teachers - Mike Rogers and TBD**

### **Elective Class — Discover Stewardship (Young Adult Coed):**

This class invites you to explore how our money, time, health, and skills can be used for God's glory. Together, we'll move beyond the false promises of the "prosperity gospel" and embrace the joyful truth that God owns everything, and we are His stewards. This isn't about more rules. It's about discovering how every part of life, what we say, what we do, how we spend, can be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col. 3:17) Join us as we uncover what Scripture says about living purposefully and joyfully as stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

- **Room 112 :: Teachers - Tyrone Moorehead and TBD**

**\*\* DiscipleLIFE classes for all ages meet every Sunday morning at 9am. \*\***





# The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 1:57-80](#)

“A Light for Those Sitting in Darkness”– November 16, 2025



## Introduction

If you live long enough, you will experience great disappointment or frustration. What you hoped for hasn't come to pass. ([Proverbs 13:12](#)) When hopeful optimism is shattered, believers can live on the edge of cynicism. When cynicism creeps in, you may find yourself no longer hoping or dreaming. You stop thinking that God can and will do the big thing. You may think that if you assume the worst, as a defense mechanism, you won't be disappointed.

Zechariah and Elizabeth lived with years and years of disappointment because they didn't have a child. It could have been that, when the angel announced the impossible to Zechariah, he was guarding his heart, looking only at life from the viewpoint of what was humanly possible. Zechariah could only see a barren wife and two elderly people who couldn't bear children.

Because of his unbelief, Zechariah was left in absolute silence until the child was born. This was a long time to be quiet. This was God's loving discipline on Zechariah to move him from cynicism to divine hope. What about you? Has your child-like faith become shattered? Do you find yourself hesitant to take risks for the gospel because you are afraid of being let down again? God has shown us the light of salvation in Christ. How should we respond to that light?

## Sermon Outline

1. Follow Jesus out of cynicism into obedience. Vs. 57-66
2. Follow Jesus out of cynicism into praise. Vs. 67-75
3. Follow Jesus out of cynicism into evangelism. Vs. 76-80

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 57-66

Zechariah was promised that Elizabeth would bear a son. In this passage, we see John's birth. God was faithful to them. He made promises and kept them. God IS faithful. Now the question was, would Zechariah and Elizabeth be faithful to what God called them to do? Many assumed that the baby would be named after Zechariah because that was the custom. But his name was to be called John. Zechariah and Elizabeth resisted social pressure, custom, and even their own desire to carry on the family name to obey God and do His will. They named him John. This is the name chosen by God to express the true identity of the child. John means "God is merciful."

God is merciful to us, sending John to prepare the way for Jesus Who would be the Savior of the world. The birth of John was a big deal. All those people wondered what this child would be. John was born, but Zechariah was still mute until he wrote on the tablet - His name is John! He had to act in obedience as an expression of faith. God's discipline had its right effect, moving Zechariah out of cynicism to a place of belief. That is what we should do. The sting of discipline may cause you to believe that it isn't good. However, loving discipline IS good. How do you respond to God's discipline in your life? Are you humble and teachable? Or are you proud, stubborn and unteachable? As a child of God, you will be disciplined in love. ([Hebrews 12:6](#))

Trusting God isn't naive optimism. Following Jesus out of cynicism into obedience faces the evil in this world with the confidence that God is good and knowing that God is doing something about the brokenness in the world.

### 2. Read Vs. 67-75

Initially, Zechariah's praise was not about John. It was all about Jesus. John was important in the story of redemption, but Zechariah recognized that the purpose of John's ministry would be to put the focus on Jesus. Zechariah needed a refuge that was better and more reliable than the refuge of cynicism.

Zechariah saw God's faithfulness. He recognized that God was being faithful to the whole world. The promise of the Messiah coming from the line of David was being fulfilled. Do you see the emphasis on God's promises being filled? God made a binding promise to Abraham, about a future people and One through whom the whole earth

would be blessed. (See: Genesis 12, 15, 17) The time from Abraham to Zechariah was a LONG time! Centuries! Waiting is hard and tempts us to doubt, worry, and cynicism. Do you look for an answer in a sinful shortcut? Remember, when God makes a promise - He keeps it - He remembers it. God is faithful. Jesus is the solid rock upon which we can build our life!

God is faithful, but He is also good. The theme of Zechariah's song is salvation. God has visited His people. Do you remember your life before you came to Christ? You were in the darkness and slavery of sin, with no hope. Then God enters your situation by coming to you. ([Ephesians 2:8](#)) He sets us free at a cost. Jesus is the horn of salvation that God has raised up. Christians have an enemy who is intent on total destruction. Can you picture an enemy raging against God's people? Now picture a massive bull with a horn of salvation entering the arena, pawing the ground, snorting. Do the enemies of God have a chance? NO! One day, the enemy will be defeated, and God's people will live with Him forever in peace. That is a reason to praise!

The horn of salvation will create a holy and righteous people. We don't appreciate gifts for which we think we have no need. If you think you are a good person, you will not see your need for Jesus today. If the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, and you realize that you have sinned against a holy God, you will join with Zechariah to praise God for raising up a horn of salvation. All sin will be punished, but Jesus came in love, took on flesh, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for your sin, was buried, but on the third day, rose again to offer salvation to those who turn from their sin and self-reliance and trust Him and Him alone. He clothes us in His righteousness, making a holy and righteous people for God. This is a reason to praise God. There is a better refuge and a better fortress. Fear is gone. ([Psalm 18:2](#))

### 3. Read Vs. 76-80

Zechariah's song breaks into two parts. In this second part, he blessed his son. John's ministry would point toward Jesus. John would give knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of sin. ([Vs. 77](#)) Just as John was called to give this message, we are also called to give this message. We are sent out to make disciples. This is why we exist as a church.

What if you face disappointment? Has cynicism begun to creep up in your heart? Have you closed your heart? Do you avoid risk? Do you think small so you are not disappointed again? God doesn't want us to live that way. [With God, all things are possible](#). He wants us to hope. Those who have gone before us have left the fingerprints of their love of God and service to Him all over this church. As those saints stand before the Lord, they have no regrets. We stand on their shoulders. We must do more than appreciate them, we must follow their example by serving, giving and taking Gospel risks.

As a church, we want members to display Christ in the marketplace - work and schools - to advance the Gospel in our town, state, country and around the world. These are ambitious plans. It will take money and time. Is it risky? Yes! That is what gospel hope does in our lives. We follow Jesus out of cynicism into bold evangelism. Light has come to those in darkness. Jesus is the horn of salvation. He is also the Bright Morning Star. ([Revelation 22:16](#)) It is a long, dark night. 2000 years ago, Jesus took on flesh. He came into a dark world as the Light. The Morning Star is risen. There is no stopping it. More and more light will shine. Christ has come. He has died and He has risen. The Morning Star has risen. We don't run around with a little flashlight - we pull back the curtains at dawn and share THE light!! This should bolster our confidence to risk-taking evangelism.

### Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at.

|                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Next week's sermon text: <a href="#">1 Thessalonians 5:18</a> "Give Thanks...When?" |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



## Family Guide for week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



### Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

# Family Guide for week of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



## **Bible Intake:** (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Matthew 1:1-17

Day 2 – Matthew 1:18 - 25

Day 3 – Matthew 2:1-12

Day 4 – Matthew 2:13-18

Day 5 – Matthew 2:19-23

**\*Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18** in preparation for church on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025

## **Prayer:** (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 35 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Ask God to help you understand His Word—the Bible—so you can live in a way that glorifies Him.

## **Sing together**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness ” – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

## **Memory verses for the month**

**Psalms 145:9** “The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all He has made.”

**Luke 1:37** “For nothing will be impossible with God. ”

## **Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>**

**Question 18: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?**

**Answer:** No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life, and in the life to come.

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<sup>1</sup> *New City Catechism* (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)