

Sunday Morning Worship

March 1, 2026



FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

March 1, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Isaiah 55:6-7

Song — Loudest Praise (Psalm 42)

Song — Only a Holy God

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 6:1-8

Pastoral Prayer

Song — All Will Be Peace

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“A Physician for the Sick”

Luke 5:1-32

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Song — Lamb of God

Song — Doxology

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 — Isaiah 55:6-7 (ESV)

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Loudest Praise (Psalm 42)

Shane Barnard | Bryan Fowler

Verse 1:

As the deer pants for the water
So my soul pants for You
All my tears have been my fodder
Day and night my only food

Oh my soul you feel forgotten
Put your hope in Christ alone
As the deer longs for the water
So my soul longs to be home

Chorus:

Come thou fount of living water
Tune my heart to bless Your name
Streams of trouble never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise

Verse 2:

As the deep cries out for answers
As Your waves crash over me
Let Your goodness like a fetter
Bind my broken heart to Thee

In the night Your song is with me
Day by day You hold me fast
Oh my soul hope in Jesus
You shall praise your God at last

Bridge:

Deep calls to deep
Waves of unbelief
Breakers crash and bring me
Falling to my knees
It goes on and on and on
Where is my God
My salvation is in You and You alone

Only a Holy God

Michael Farren | Jonny Robinson | Dustin Smith | Rich Thompson

Verse 1:

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

Verse 2:

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendour outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Chorus:

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Verse 3:

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Verse 4:

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God!

Scripture Reading — Isaiah 6:1-8 (ESV)

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

All Will Be Peace

Erik Dewar | Glory and Gladness Music

Verse 1:

A kingdom is coming where all will be right
Injustice and suff'ring will end
For God will deliver the poor and contrite
The meek of the earth He'll defend
Then Jesus the Righteous will speak forth his word
And none of the wicked will stand
He'll answer our cries that we thought went un-
heard
And all will be peace in that land

Verse 2:

The nations will fashion their swords into shears
No longer preparing for war
New plows will be made from the last of the spears
And no one will fear anymore
The mountains will sing as we go out with joy
While trees of the field clap their hands
And no one in Zion will hurt or destroy
For all will be peace in that land

Verse 3:

Instead of the briar the flower will grow
The cypress instead of the thorn
And so living water forever will flow
When all that was cursed is reborn
The beasts will not kill but be led by a child
The wolves will lie down with the lamb
The calf and the lion will graze in the wild
For all will be peace in that land

Verse 4:

From least to the greatest we'll all know the Lord
And ever his people we'll be
The earth will be filled with the knowledge of God
Like waters that cover the sea
And Jesus will wipe ev'ry tear from our eyes
As God makes his dwelling with man
Then death pain and ev'ry last sorrow will die
And all will be peace in that land
And all will be peace in that land

Sermon Notes

“A Physician for the Sick” :: Luke 5:1-32

Church Covenant

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will engage in assembling ourselves together while praying for one another. We will strive for and promote the spiritual growth and advancement of the church by; sustaining worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

As a body of believers, we agree to maintain family and personal devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances. We will seek to avoid all practices or speech which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We will walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require. In conflict, we will seek to follow Christ's example of reconciliation without delay. We will always strive to be humble and courteous in our speech and slow to take offense. We agree that should we leave this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Lamb of God

Bob Kauflin | David LaChance Jr.

Verse 1:

O Lamb of God all worlds obeyed Your will
From dark and void their being came
O Lamb of God, Your glories echo still
Creation sings its Maker's praise
Eternal God, One with the Father
Before all time You dwelt in love
Eternal God, unlike all others
Yet You descended unto us

Verse 2:

O Lamb of God, in filthy manger lay
In humble dress You entered earth
O Lamb of God, Creator bows to save
The needy ones helpless from birth
Incarnate Word, Gift of the Father
To take our place and bear our sin
Incarnate Word, Led to the slaughter
You conquered death and rose again

Verse 3:

O Lamb of God, Now reigning on the throne
The Judge of all faithful and true
O Lamb of God, You'll make Your power known
When all Your foes receive their due
Victorious King, When history's fading
You'll call Your Bride To take her place
Victorious King, Creation's waiting
For Your redeemed to see Your face

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen!

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, March 1

Youth Winter Retreat

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes

10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Lord's Supper

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

6:30 PM Elders Meeting

Wednesday, March 4

6:30 PM Church Prayer Meeting

Thursday, March 5

Friday, March 6

Saturday, March 7

6:30 AM Bible Boot Camp (Men's Study)

8:30 AM Titus 2 (Women's Study)

Sunday, March 8 (DST Begins—clock ahead 1hr)

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

12:00 PM Members Meeting

6:00 PM Youth Night

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Wednesday, March 4

6:30pm — Church Prayer Meeting

Sunday, March 8

Church Members Meeting — following worship service

Sunday, March 14

8:30am — Disaster Relief Training

Sunday, March 22

Church Potluck — following worship service

Friday, April 3

7pm — Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 12

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service

(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of March 1

Prayer of the week:

It's often helpful to pray the Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. As you pray for yourself and others this week, we encourage you to consider the brief prayer of the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 3:5:

*"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God
and to the steadfastness of Christ."*

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 good spiritual fruit to come from the Youth Winter Retreat this weekend. Continually pray that the students of our church would hear and understand the gospel and be saved. Pray for their families and other Christian adults in the church to faithfully teach and show them how to live out God's commands. (Luke 8:8)
- Praise God for the recent births of little ones to families in the church: Jack — Fraser and Betsy Henderson; Eliana — Bertrand and Cynthia Njoya. (Psalm 127:3-5)
- Pray for those in our church family facing a season of fear and anxiety. Pray that they would be reminded of the Holy Spirit's continued presence with them. Pray for a heart of peace and a mind that will trust Christ in the midst of suffering. (2 Cor 1:5, Prov. 29:25; Ps 94:19)
- Pray that God would help our church family to radically love others in the way the Bible teaches us to love. Pray that our love would reflect the sacrificial love that God has shown us through Jesus Christ. (Mt 5:43-48; John 13:35)
- 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)
- Pray that God would renew our strength when we're weary and use our weakness to display His power. (2 Cor. 12:9)
- Pray that a culture of discipleship, joyful hospitality, and care grows in us as a church family (1 Pt 4:9; Col. 3:16)
- Pray for those in our church family who are going through a significant time of suffering—physically or mentally. Pray for peace. Pray for a keen awareness of God's presence and a desire to draw near to him. Pray for experiences of joy in Christ and in fellowship with church family. (Is. 26:3-4, Ps. 34:18, Ps. 30:1-5)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Margaret Austin, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim Ernster, Marjorie Griffin, James Jones Sr. (death of mother), Bonnie Trott, Belinda Vasquez (death of sister)

(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” aims to highlight active church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope these highlights help us all support each ministry in prayer, and also spark interest in your personal involvement in a particular ministry. *Please contact us to learn more about the ministries at FBCUM using the Digital Communication Card on the last page of this bulletin. We also encourage you to pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.*

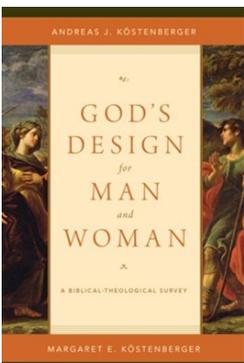
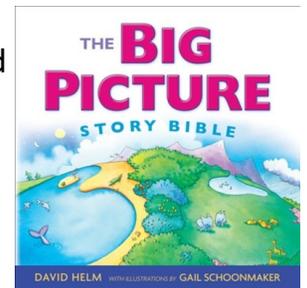
Bookstall Ministry

Bookstall Ministry :: Deacon Isaac Neal



The Bookstall Ministry purpose serves as a discipleship tool to support spiritual growth and biblical studies. All books are reviewed by the pastors before they are recommended, to ensure that the congregation has access to sound and doctrinally faithful resources. Chosen with you in mind. We have books for everyone in all aspects of life. Let's take a look!

The Big Picture Story Bible presents this remarkable true story. Simple words and striking illustrations unfold the story line of God's Word and His love for the world from Genesis to Revelation. All ages will enjoy this exciting discovery of a God who keeps his big promise! Especially recommended for ages 2-7.



God's Design for Man and Woman.

This thorough study of the Bible's teaching on men and women aims to help a new generation of Christians live for Christ in today's world. Moving beyond other treatments that primarily focus on select passages, this winsome volume traces Scripture's overarching pattern related to male-female relationships in both the Old and New Testaments.

Ministry Spotlight



There are **Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF)** mini-books that brings clarity to a situation. The mini-books address various topics like, ***Eating Disorders***, being a ***Single Parent***, or ***How to Love Difficult People***, from a Christian perspective. Visit the Book Stall to check out the for these and other topics.

Isaac Neal shares his thoughts.

1. How long have you served in the Bookstall ministry? **About ten years - shortly after Pastor Zach arrived.**
2. Why did you decide to serve in the Bookstall ministry? **Pastor Zach asked me if I'd like to serve and I was eager to learn more about our church and God.**
3. How has serving in the Bookstall impacted your walk with Christ? **Serving has made me more aware of our need for discipleship to grow in knowledge of God.**
4. What changes have you seen among those that serve in your ministry that you would like to share? **We recently inventoried our books and marveled at the variety of resources available to meet you where you are on your Christian journey. Everyone was excited to have the opportunity to grow spiritually.**
5. One thing you want others to know about serving in your respective service areas. (A statement from your heart.) **It is great to know that these resources are available for individual and group use to help lead others to Christ and to help Christians be more like Christ.**



How can I find out what books are available at the Bookstall?

This is a great question! We have all of the books listed and available for you through review on the FBCUM.org website under the Resources tab. Books are listed in alphabetical order with a complete description about the book.

Books are available for all ages!

Announcements

1. **Young Adults (18-34) Let's Connect! — TONIGHT at 5pm.** Young Adults are invited to a relaxed night with food and games at the Mooreheads. Dinner is provided! Friends are always welcome.

2. **Church Prayer Meeting — THIS Wed., March 4, at 6:30pm.** Join us for a time of prayer, testimony, and encouragement from God's Word. Come early at 5:30pm for a simple meal and fellowship.

3. **Church Members Meeting :: Sunday, March 8 after worship.** Church members, make plans to attend our regularly scheduled Members Meeting. 12/21 meeting minutes are available in the office.

4. **Disaster Relief Training :: March 14 at 9am.** FBCUM is hosting Disaster Relief Training for the BCM/D. Training is for first-time volunteers and those needing to update credentials. The training will consist of: Introduction to DR, Feeding Unit, Laundry Unit, and Recovery Unit. Scan or click the QR code to register. Contact Tanya Joy with questions.



5. **Save the Date — Church Potluck :: Sunday, March 22 after worship.**

6. **Women's Event.** Ladies, join us at the church on Saturday, March 28th, for a time of teaching on the topic of Rest and to enjoy fellowship and brunch. The event starts at 9am and wraps up around 2pm. Registration is \$25, which includes materials and a catered brunch. Registration opens today and closes March 22. Friends are welcome! Please, do not let the cost keep you from coming! Contact Katie Schlegel with questions.



7. **New Connect Groups for 2026.** A new round of Connect Groups is kicking off for 2026. Take a look at the bulletin insert for group and registration information.

8. **Preschool Ministry Opportunity.** Our precious preschoolers need YOU! We have a few spots to fill for the next two 6-week rotations in the church nursery. If you're available to serve our families by caring for children during worship, please see Ashley Meekins Smith or Pam Jensen.

9. **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.

GROUPS

:: 2026 Connect Groups ::

Connect groups seek to connect participants with others in the church on an ongoing basis. The objectives are threefold: 1) meet together, 2) speak together, and 3) pray together. As participants meet together, leaders will guide discussion around Gospel themes/topics and lead a time of group prayer. We hope these groups will be simple, flexible, and relational. **Please contact the host for group-specific information. Registration information on reverse side.**

Jay and Trish Crandell

Group Information: 3pm // 4th Sunday of each month

Host/Location: Crandell's Home — Shady Side

Contact: Jay: 301-466-7420; jcrandell@aresconsulting.biz

Trish: 410-279-1610; jcrandellfam@gmail.com

Tom and Renata Janes

Group Information: 1pm // Sundays (twice a month after worship)

Host/Location: Janes' Home — Upper Marlboro

Contact: Tom: 202-430-9381; tomwjanes@gmail.com

Renata: 301-659-6974; janes.renata@gmail.com

Charles and Monique Kirkland (hosted by Isaac and Rita Neal)

Group Information: 6pm // 2nd Friday of each month

Host/Location: Home of Isaac and Rita Neal — Upper Marlboro

Contact: Charles: 240-618-4236; skunkrx@aol.com

Monique: 301-742-5414; mcdockj@aol.com

Tyrone and Sharon Moorehead

Group Information: 2pm // Sunday (once a month)

Host/Location: Moorehead's Home — Huntingtown

Contact: Tyrone: 301-252-5579; tmoorehead@firstbaptistum.com

Sharon: 301-335-4050; sharon.moorehead123@gmail.com

Mike and Crystal Whittaker

Group Information: 6:30pm // 2nd and 4th Thursdays

Host/Location: Whittaker's Home — Cheltenham

Contact: Mike: 301-500-8819; mwhittaker@firstbaptistum.com

Crystal: 301-385-8472; lareewhit@aol.com



Your Name Goes Here! We would love to offer additional groups. If you're a church member and are interested in leading or hosting a Connect Group, contact Mike Rogers (mrogers@fbcum.org) for more info.

Group Information: Day and time that works best for you

Host/Location: Your home or partner up with another church member to host

:: How to Register ::

Scan (or click) the QR code below with your mobile device to register online or fill out the form below and drop it in the designated box on the Welcome Desk.

Sign me up for a Connect Group!



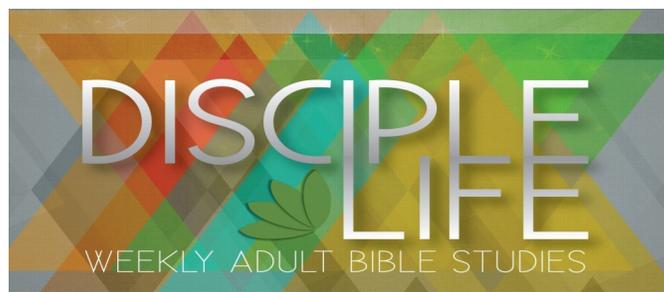
Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Group: _____





Spring 2026 (March - May) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:

SPRING SESSION BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 1 @ 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 14—28

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 14–28, you'll understand what it means to live out your faith each day—and how you can move forward to make disciples of all nations. (Books available in room 117/118 on Sunday, 2/15.)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 117/118 Teacher :: Bill Lowry & Tony Edwards**
- **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 — Gospel-Centered Marriage

Most of what the Bible has to say about marriage does not come flagged up under a heading of “marriage”. It's not just the famous “marriage passages” that should shape a marriage, but the whole Bible-story of God's good creation, humanity's wicked rebellion and God's gracious redemption. To understand why marriages struggle—as they all do—we need to understand the nature of our sin. To make marriages work, we need to understand how to apply the truth about God and his salvation. This class focuses on how the gospel shapes the practical realities of everyday life. Many of the common pressure points that modern couples face, and how a proper understanding of the gospel can shape a response will be discussed. Books will be available in class on 3/1 for \$8.00.

- **Room 114 Teachers :: Tyrone Moorehead & Tim Smith**

Elective Class — Evangelism (Young Adults 18-35)

"Though the gospel is good news, it can be difficult to share because of the fear of man, personal insecurity, or lacking a clear grasp on the message. Join us as dive into better understanding the message of the gospel and being equipped to share it with family, friends, and people of other faiths."

- **Room 112 Teachers :: Vaughn Lawson & Tre Fields**

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



The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 5:1-32](#)

“A Physician for the Sick”– March 1, 2026



Introduction

Luke has already shown us that Jesus has the authority to cast out demons and has authority over disease of any kind. After seeing Jesus' miracles, the crowd was impressed, but they enjoyed Jesus' authority as a spectator.

What if Jesus' authority comes knocking on the door of your life? Does it make you nervous when He gets involved in your life. Do you trust Jesus' authority? Jesus does have authority over people. Maybe you have experienced ungodly authority in their life, making it difficult to trust. ([Proverbs 29:2](#))

Before you reject all authority in life, consider what happens when you come in contact with good, righteous, holy, and trustworthy authority. The aim of this passage of scripture is that you can have certainty about Jesus' authority in your life and what happens as a result.

Sermon Outline

1. Jesus' good authority exposes and commissions. Vs. 1-11
2. Jesus' good authority gives hope and makes clean. Vs. 12-16
3. Jesus' good authority forgives and makes whole. Vs. 17 - 26
4. Jesus' good authority makes us a new creation. Vs. 27-32

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 1-11

Jesus was sent by the Father to preach. Here, He was preaching by the Sea of Galilee. The crowds were pressing in, eager to hear from Him. To keep from falling in the water, Jesus had to get in Simon's boat to continue. At the end of the sermon, we hear a conversation between Jesus and Peter. He told Peter to put out the nets again. Remember, Peter was a professional fisherman. Along with others, they had fished all night and caught nothing. They were tired and exhausted. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus told them to put out the nets again?

Peter may have thought that Jesus' didn't know what He was talking about, however, he had been with Jesus, seeing Him heal and hearing Him preach. He hadn't completely figured out Jesus yet, but he was interested in and respectful to Jesus. At Jesus' word they cast out the nets, and right away, so many fish were jumping into the nets that they began to break. Peter called for the other boat, but there were so many fish that both boats began to sink.

It was very clear to everyone that they had just witnessed a miracle. What would you expect Peter's reaction to be? One of gratitude? Excitement? The meaning of this miracle was not lost on Peter. He had witnessed Jesus' authority yet again. At that moment, Peter realized that he was in the presence of the Holy which led him to confess, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Sinful people are not comfortable in the presence of the Holy. ([Isaiah 6:1-7](#)) Jesus didn't rebuke Peter. No words were needed to express Jesus' holiness.

What about you? Your experience with Jesus doesn't have to be as dramatic as Peter's. How do you see yourself in light of God's holiness? If every thought and motive of your heart from this past week was projected today for all to see, how would you feel? Most people don't think their sin is a big deal. Do you compare yourself to others and then consider yourself as a good person. Is it possible that you don't tremble because you have not come to terms with the holiness of God? Do you see the God of the Bible as a consuming fire? One day, we will all stand before a holy God. He will judge. Do you see yourself accurately in light of this truth?

Jesus' response to Peter was more astonishing. Peter was trembling, and Jesus said, "Do not be afraid!" Then, Jesus gave Peter a new job. He exposed Peter's sin. Peter confessed, and Jesus drew near to Peter. The grace of God takes people who confess their sin and makes them new and calls them to serve. When you come to Jesus, agreeing with God about your sin, He will forgive, draw near, and commission.

2. Read Vs. 12-16

Leprosy is a terrible skin disease which could be deadly. Lepers had to live in permanent isolation. ([Leviticus 13:45-46](#)) They were "unclean." This was a horrific, lonely and isolating disease. People didn't become leprosy because of their sin, yet leprosy **is** an accurate description of the spiritual condition of all mankind. In sin, we are all spiritually unclean. The law in Leviticus was a reminder that we all need to be spiritually clean.

Can you imagine how the crowd responded when the leper showed up? The leper knew Jesus was able to heal him. He wondered if Jesus was **willing** to heal him. Did this man think Jesus would reject him like all of the others? You don't have to have leprosy to think the same thing. You know God is able to forgive, but will He forgive you? Notice the heart of Jesus here in [vs. 13](#). Willingly, Jesus touched him and healed him. God can heal, and he often does. We should pray. ([James 5:13-15](#)) In His wisdom and love, sometimes God says, "not yet." We must trust God's timetable. Here, Jesus reached out and healed. The holiness of Jesus made the leper clean!

After this miracle, Jesus withdrew to pray. He knew, in His humanity, that He needed time with the Father. He loves the Father. How do you respond when you are praised for something? Do you pat yourself on the back or do you point to God? ([Proverbs 27:21](#))

3. Read Vs. 17-26

Once again, Jesus was preaching. The religious leaders had come to hear Him, investigating the new preacher to make sure He was legit. This scene centers around a paralyzed man who couldn't get to Jesus, so his friends helped him. (This is a good reminder for us. We are in a covenant relationship with each other to bring each other to Jesus.)

There wasn't a way to get in, but faith doesn't give up that easily. They found a way. What would Jesus do? After all that the people had seen, they expected Jesus to heal him which makes [vs. 20](#) shocking. He said the man's sins were forgiven, making the religious leaders furious. Now, all sin is fundamentally an offense against God, so the theology of the religious leaders was correct - only God can forgive sins. However, Jesus meant to say this, so that leaves two options - either Jesus is a blasphemer or He is God. The signs Jesus did validated His identity. So, to validate His authority to forgive sins, He healed the paralytic. He has the authority to forgive because He is God. Who is Jesus to you? Do you try to fit Jesus into a box and domesticate Him? What will you do with Jesus?

Jesus IS authorized by God to forgive sins. He won't do that by sweeping things under the carpet, making God unjust. He died for our sins. ([1 Peter 2:24](#)) On the third day, He rose from the dead. Jesus can be just **and** the Justifier. He doesn't compromise justice; He upholds it. Have you come to Jesus in repentance and faith? Cry out to God! Believe and trust Christ for forgiveness!

4. Jesus' good authority makes us a new creation. Vs. 27-32

Here, we see Levi (Matthew), a Jewish tax collector. In Jesus' time, tax collectors were greedy, dishonest, and filthy rich. They purchased the right to collect taxes for Rome, and were then allowed to add a "surcharge." They were seen as traitors and hated by the Jewish people. "Tax collector" was synonymous with "sinner" in the eyes of the Jewish people. Levi was well known, collecting money for the occupying Roman forces.

Jesus singled out Levi and told Him to follow Him. He did and then hosted a feast with his friends, and Jesus was there. The religious leaders grumbled. They didn't like that Jesus' joined in the feast. The religious leaders considered themselves as good. They didn't see themselves as the ones in need of forgiveness.

You probably don't see yourself as perfect, but do you may see yourself as "good?" You don't go to a doctor unless you are sick. If you encounter the holiness of God, you will understand your need. If you have been cleansed from shame and guilt, forgiven of all of our sin, what should be your response? When you experience God's grace, you will want others to experience it too. Your expectation of who should to come to church will change. Who are you tempted to grumble about? If your heart says that certain people don't belong, you may be outside with the Pharisees. Jesus didn't come to save people who think they are basically good. He came to save sinners! Levi left everything to follow Jesus? What about you? You must have a change of mind and heart that leads to a change of direction. No more living for self; live for Jesus.

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 www.fbcum.org.

Next week's sermon text: [Luke 5:33-6:11](#) "Lord of the Sabbath"

Family Guide for week of March 1st, 2026

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](#).

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Bible Intake: (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Matthew 14:22-33

Day 2 – Matthew 14:34-36

Day 3 – Matthew 15:1-9

Day 4 – Matthew 15:10-20

Day 5 – Matthew 15:21-28

*Read Luke 5:33-6:11 in preparation for church on Sunday, March 8, 2026

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 8 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Praise God for the peace, joy, and hope we can have in Him because He is a faithful God.

Sing together

“Only a Holy God” – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

Memory verses for the month

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

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

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 33: Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

Answer: No, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.

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