

Sunday Morning Worship

April 26, 2026



FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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

Order of Worship

April 26, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Psalm 103:1-4

Song — Bless the Lord Medley

Song — I Stand Amazed in the Presence

The Apostles' Creed

Song — Blessed Is the One

Scripture Reading — Psalm 51:1-15

Pastoral Prayer

Song — Jesus, I Come (Out of My Bondage)

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Your Sins Are Forgiven”

Luke 7:36-50

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 — Psalm 103:1-4 (ESV)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Bless the Lord Medley

Andrae Crouch | Esther Watanabe | Jason Brown

I Will Bless Thee, O Lord:

I will bless Thee, O Lord!
I will bless Thee, O Lord!
With a heart of thanksgiving,
I will bless Thee, O Lord!

With my hands lifted up,
And my mouth filled with praise
With a heart of thanksgiving,
I will bless Thee, O Lord!

Bless the Lord:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,
Bless his holy name

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

Charles Hutchison Gabriel

Verse 1:

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner condemned unclean
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner condemned unclean

Chorus:

How marvelous, how wonderful
And my song shall ever be
How marvelous, how wonderful
Is my Savior's love for me

Verse 2:

He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them His very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone

Verse 3:

And with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see
It will be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me
It will be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead and buried.
On the third day, He rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven,
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy universal church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting.
Amen.

An Explanation of the Apostles' Creed:

From as far back as the 2nd century, Christians have used statements of faith like the Apostles' Creed to confess their faith. It was common to use these statements prior to one's public declaration of faith at baptism. Therefore, through the centuries, the Apostles' Creed has become a well-known and useful tool to help believers around the world learn and affirm the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith.

At First Baptist Church, we use this brief statement in our public services to declare before God, each other, and the watching world that these are foundational truths of our faith that Scripture has clearly revealed. In doing so, we stand united with Christians around the world and through the centuries by our faith in God, the Father Almighty; Jesus, his only Son; and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed Is the One

Doug Plank

Verse 1:

Blessed is the one whose sins are overcome
Whom God has sheltered deep within His grace
Blessed is the one who trusts in God the Son
His steadfast love the sinner's hiding place

Verse 2:

I will always hide at my Savior's side
I find my refuge in His sovereign care
When the waters rise God will hear my cries
His steadfast love will hold me safely there

Chorus:

Jesus, Your blood covers all my sins
Jesus, Your love draws my heart to sing
What a Savior, Jesus

Scripture Reading — Psalm 51:1-15 (ESV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteous-
ness.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

Jesus, I Come (Out of My Bondage)

William T Sleeper | Jason Brown | Mike Rogers

Verse 1:

Out of my bondage sorrow and night
Jesus I come
Into Thy freedom gladness and light
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of my sickness and into Thy health
Out of my want and into Thy wealth
Out of my sin and into thyself
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 2:

Out of my shameful failure and loss
Jesus I come
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm
Out of distress to jubilant psalm
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 3:

Out of unrest and arrogant pride
Jesus I come
Into Thy blessed will to abide
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love
Out of despair to glories above
Upward for e're on wings like a dove
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 4:

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus I come
Into the joy and light of Thy home
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into Your peace, Your sheltering hold
Ever Thy glorious face to behold
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Sermon Notes

“Your Sins Are Forgiven” :: Luke 7:36-50

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, April 26

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

### Monday, April 27

### Tuesday, April 28

6:30 PM Elders Meeting

### Wednesday, April 29

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir  
6:30 PM AWANA  
Elder-Led Bible Study (1 Cor)  
Choir / Band Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 30

### Friday, May 1

### Saturday, May 2

### Sunday, May 3

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Lord's Supper  
6:00 PM Youth Night

## Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

### Saturday, May 16

8:30am — Men's Breakfast

### Wednesday, May 20

Last Night of Regular Wednesday Evening Schedule

### Sunday, May 31

Members' Meeting immediately following the worship service

### Sunday, June 7

Children's DiscipleLIFE Promotion Sunday  
5pm — Church Picnic

### June 23—27

9am—12:30pm — Vacation Bible School (*more details coming soon*)

### Sunday, July 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 April 26

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### Prayer of the week:

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the praise of the Apostle Paul from 1 Thessalonians 2:13 as a specific way to give thanks to God:

*<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*

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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 teachers and students in our church family who are completing their final weeks of classes for the school year. Pray that God would help them to finish well and give them physical and spiritual strength to endure. See a list of our out-of-town college students toward the back of the church directory.
- Pray for federal workers in our church who are effected by the DHS shutdown. Pray that they would trust God to provide for their needs. Pray that God would help them to bear good spiritual fruit even in the midst of difficult circumstances. (John 16:33; Ps. 23:1)
- Pray for our young adults ministry. Pray that our young adults would be encouraged and strengthened in their faith. Pray that godly friendships would flourish. (Heb. 10:23-24)
- Pray that God would strengthen and encourage our Deacons and Ministry Team leaders as they work to meet the practical needs of our church family and those in our community (1 Samuel 12:24; Deut. 31:6). See “Ministry Spotlight” pages for highlights and prayer requests.
- 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 deepen our desire for prayer as a church family. May we not grow weary or apathetic in bringing our concerns to Him. May God help us to sense His presence and power as we pray. (Rom 12:12, Col 4:2)
- 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:

**Brenda Addison, Margaret Austin, John Buchheister, Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Jim Ernster, Marjorie Griffin, Kim Haskell, Cheryl Rowland (death of father), Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker, Tony Yuriar (death of father)**

(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.*

## Praying & Crocheting Ministry

**Tanya Joy :: Ministry Leader**

From the humble beginning, a class project to visualize “The Scarlet Thread,” through scripture, led to the creation of the Praying & Crocheting Ministry. Dee Peltier, led the group by providing instructions for crocheting 6” granny squares with step-by-step diagrams. These squares were completed and stitched into a beautiful afghan. The ladies, in the class, were excited about working together and learning more about crocheting. Even though the quarter ended and the afghans were completed, the ladies desired to continue, so they did. The next question was, what shall we make and who may be blessed with our creations.

Dee made inquiries about members that were unable to attend church or those that may had medical challenges. She suggested we make lap afghans. These were useful for wheelchair bound and/or folks with mobility challenges and they were very much appreciated. Having achieved this we moved forward. We volunteered to make hats and scarves for a Christmas store. (An event that provided gifts for needy children. This event allowed our church to minister to the whole family and share the gospel.) That was a lot of fun. Learning how to make hats and scarves by reading, following patterns and learning new stitches. (See the picture of the hats and scarves some also included mittens.) We continued to, by God’s grace grow, grow in our faith and in our skills.



Dee moved from our area, however, the Lord provided Randy Fishter, who stepped up as our experienced expert in crocheting. Randy Fishter along with Marjorie Griffin and Regina Flowers had major experience in crocheting. The newbies (like me) developed more confidence as they continued to learn and grow in various techniques of crocheting. Deborah Harding delivered our first corner-to-corner stitched afghan, amazing. I personally, have a lot to learn and I marvel at the things that others make.

## Ministry Spotlight

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This is a lot about our growth and experience as *crochet-ers* but we are sisters in the faith. We have faced many trials and challenges in our lives. When we began our meeting time together, we chose the Psalms. We shared prayer requests, read the Psalms, then shared how the Psalm spoke to us. We were able to encourage one another in God's word. God's word encouraged us to thrive as we faced the loss of a loved one and/or personal health challenges. God helped us focus on the next stitch and not let life's distractions hinder us. We were amazed by what we achieved. All of this, reminds us to trust God daily. Each time we were challenged in getting things done by a certain deadline, the Lord made a way. My heart marvels at the work He has done in us and through us.



Starting in May, on the first Tuesday of each month, we will be meeting together in person for Praying and Crocheting. If you are interested and do not crochet, please do not let the title deter you from coming because our scope is not limited to crocheters or knitters only. Newbies are welcome, we will teach you. We are also seeking cross-stitchers, creative greeting card makers. and we are open to other ways we can not only bless those in the church (*Youth Ministry/Grief & Bereavement*), but also outreach organizations (World Vision, Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Operation Christmas Child), just to name a few.

**Please meet us on Tuesday, May 5 at 12:30pm - 1:30pm** to brainstorm together and begin our creative projects. Contact me (Tanya Joy) in the church office at 301-952-0117 or by email at [fbcum@firstbaptistum.com](mailto:fbcum@firstbaptistum.com). I am so excited to see who God will bring to this ministry and what we can create under His divine leadership. ***If you have questions, please contact Tanya Joy for more details.***

*(If you are unable to attend in person, but would like to support the efforts of this ministry, you are welcome, please reach out to me.)*

# Announcements

**1. Lord's Supper Celebration Next Sunday, May 3.** We encourage you to prayerfully prepare your heart to receive the supper together as we remember the work of Christ on our behalf. If you know of any reconciliation that needs to happen between you and another brother or sister in Christ, we hope you'll take the time to prayerfully do that before we gather next Sunday.

**2. Men's Breakfast :: Saturday, May 16, 8:30am.** Guys, mark your calendar and join us for a time of fellowship and devotional. Reserve your spot now so we can make sure there's plenty of food. Scan the QR code to register. Contact John Almy (jalmy545@yahoo.com) for more info.



**3. Update: "Change for Life" Baby Bottle Campaign.** Thank you to all who participated in our recent "Change for Life" Baby Bottle Campaign to support Wellspring Life Ministry. Through your generous donations, \$486.00 was donated to care for women and to save the lives of preborn babies. Contact Trish Crandell for more information.

**4. 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.



If you're giving in person or by mail, please help us accurately identify your gift by legibly printing your first and last name on your giving envelope. Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.

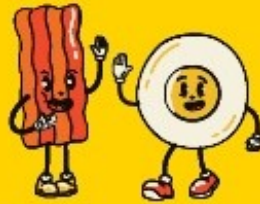
## Digital Communication Card



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.



# Men's Breakfast



## Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and  
testimony!

*All men are welcome to attend*



Scan to  
Register

**8:30 a.m.**

**First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro**  
7415 Crain Hwy, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

# The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 7:36-50](#)

“Your Sins Are Forgiven”– April 26, 2026



## Introduction

At some point in your life, you have probably been wronged by someone. It may have been a minor offense, or it may have been heinous. Regardless, how would you respond if you were asked to forgive them for the wrong? Maybe they have come to trust in Christ, and they wanted to come to you to make things right. Would you question whether or not they had really changed? Would you question their sincerity? We can all be cynical that such a drastic change could occur. Maybe that cynicism is there because YOU have tried to change, but you've struggled. Feeling stuck in your own sin can bring discouragement, and cynicism increases. You may wonder, “can people really change?” Can you really change? Do you feel trapped in your sin? How can you be sure that real change can happen in your life or in the life of others?

Whenever you read the Bible, one of the key tools is context. To understand this text, keep in mind what came before it. Earlier in chapter seven, after Jesus talked to the crowd about John the Baptist, the Pharisees gave their critique. They were only right about one thing - Jesus is a friend of sinners.

## Sermon Outline

1. Scene One: An uninvited guest Vs. 36-39
2. Scene Two: A right judgement Vs. 40-47
3. Scene Three: A life at peace Vs. 48-50

## Read & Discuss

### 1. Read Vs. 36-39

Luke does not tell us why Jesus was invited to Simon's home for a meal. It was a typical evening until [vs. 37](#). “Behold, a woman of the city who was a sinner came in.” She had a reputation. It was who she was - it was her identity. She knew where Jesus was and came to Him out of love and gratitude. She wanted to honor Him.

This scene gets a little awkward. Can you put yourself in the place of one of the guests when she begins to weep? Then not having a towel, she used her hair and kissed His feet. Then, she anointed His feet. Everyone is silent. Only her weeping was heard. She interrupted the dinner party, so all eyes turned to her. She was so overcome with gratitude that she didn't care what the others thought of her. Jesus didn't care either. He cared about her heart.

Simon was upset that she interrupted the meal. His assessment at the moment was that Jesus was phony because He was a “friend of sinners.” He thought that the woman's sin would make Jesus unclean. Simon's criteria to judge Jesus was how Jesus would respond to this woman. Who says that is the right criteria? Simon got it wrong. Do you have unspoken criteria about for what God would or should do for you? If God doesn't come through with how you think He should respond, do you doubt? The right criteria for assessment is the Bible. Jesus' holiness is so magnificent and powerful that He would not become “contaminated” by the unclean person. He has the power to make the unclean clean.

However, this woman had changed. ([Vs. 38](#)) Jesus was telling her that her sins had already been forgiven. This is crucial to note. It is true - her sin was scandalous, but at some point before this dinner, she had met Jesus, and she believed. She found a Savior who could transform her life. However, Simon the host didn't see it or believe it. To him, people don't change. Simon saw the same old sinner. Jesus would have to convince Simon that she actually had changed.

### 2. Read Vs. 40-47

Jesus' parable was actually a very simple one to understand. The difference between the two people in debt was that one owed a lot more than the other. What was similar was that neither could pay their debt, and they were both in trouble with the money lender. Unexpectedly, the money lender cancelled the debt of both. Jesus then asked Simon, “which of them would love him more?” Why did Jesus mention love? This reminds us that Jesus was not just talking about a transaction. It was (and is) about a relationship. Christianity is not just about following the rules. It is about a restored, loving relationship with a real, living God.

The answer was obvious, but Jesus wanted Simon to say it, so Simon answered Jesus. Jesus told Simon that he had 'judged rightly.' Previously, Simon had misjudged both the woman and Jesus. The parable led Simon to the right judgment – it gave him a "corrective lens." Now, Jesus held up the mirror to Simon. "Do you see this woman?" Yes. Do you see the truth about this woman - do you see her value? Or is she invisible to you? She wasn't invisible to Jesus. Do you often feel overlooked, invisible? Even if the world overlooks you, Jesus sees you. Three times, Jesus made the comparison between Simon's "hospitality" and that of the woman's. Who was the true host? The woman. The woman's love was the evidence of her faith. The real difference between Simon and the woman was whether or not they saw their need for God's grace. Simon saw himself as a good person, and he saw her as a sinner. Jesus flipped the script. The path to true greatness is through humility – recognizing your sin and coming to Jesus.

The same is true for us. Do you tend to think of yourself as a good person? Without the knowledge of God, there is no knowledge of self. (Calvin) If you do not have an accurate knowledge of self, you will have a distorted view of God. In [Romans 3](#), Paul tells us that the law of God acts as a mirror to show our true selves. Look at Simon and the mirror of God's word. Do you take Jesus for granted? Are you so busy with your life that you don't have time to give to Jesus? Do you doubt Jesus' ability and power to change you to the core of who you are? Do you treat Jesus with cold indifference? Do you see glimpses of Simon in you? If you do, realizing that is good. It will drive you from your self-reliance to Christ. There is a Simon in each of us. You must repent.

In the parable, the money lender was the one who cancelled the debt. That means he **forgave** the debt – he absorbed the cost of the debt. This is helpful to understand. When you ask for forgiveness, you are asking the wronged person to absorb the debt. Our unity as a church rests on the knowledge that we all have a debt to pay to God. God in His extravagant grace and mercy absorbed the debt and forgave us. If He forgives us much, we can forgive each other. Everything hinges on God's forgiveness. HE will enable us to love and forgive others.

### 3. Read Vs. 48-50

Jesus was claiming that He was God when He told the woman that her sins were forgiven, shocking those in the room. To this woman, Jesus' words were sweet and life-giving. Can you say that you have an unshakeable peace? If not, have you considered that your lack of peace is because you are estranged from God? Jesus came to Simon's dinner to offer peace. Sin separates us from God, and peace alludes us. We deserve death and hell. That is the debt owed to God that we can't pay. Jesus came, in love for us and the Father, to pay the debt. ([Colossians 2:13-14](#)) Do you stand amazed at that? Only Jesus can cancel the debt you owe. He came to offer salvation, forgiveness, and peace.

Did Jesus convince Simon? We don't know. Luke never tells us his response. What about you? How you're your respond? What will YOU do with Jesus? Will you sit in judgment, minimizing your sin or will you come, like this woman, honest and empty-handed for Jesus' forgiveness? You cannot pay the debt. Jesus can.

#### 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](http://www.fbcum.org).

**Next week's sermon text:** [Luke 8:1-21](#) "Take Care How You Hear"

## Family Guide for week of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](#).

## Family Guide for week of April 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.



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

Day 1 – Matthew 25:1-13

Day 2 – Matthew 25:14-30

Day 3 – Matthew 25:31-46

Day 4 – Matthew 26:1-13

Day 5 – Matthew 26:14-29

\*Read Luke 8:1-21 in preparation for church on Sunday, May 3, 2026

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

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 16 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Praise God for the promise that when we share the gospel and teach others from His Word, it always fulfills His purposes

### **Sing together**

"I Stand Amazed in the Presence" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

### **Memory verses for the month**

**John 1:14** *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

**Psalms 145:10** *"All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!"*

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

#### **Question 41: What is the Lord's Prayer?**

**Answer:** *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

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