

Sunday Morning Worship

May 17, 2026



FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

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

Order of Worship

May 17, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Psalm 115:1-3

Song — All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Song — God Shall Arise (Psalm 68)

Song — A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pastoral Prayer

Responsive Scripture Reading — Psalm 89:1-9

Song — Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Where Is Your Faith?”

Luke 8:22-39

Song — So I Will Trust You

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 115:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

² Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?”

³ Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Edward Perronet | John Rippon | Judah Groveman

Verse 1:

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all

Verse 2:

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you
by His grace and crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Chorus:

His name is Jesus,
Risen Lamb, for sinners slain
His name is Jesus
All creation sings the praise *(repeat)*
Of Jesus name

Verse 3:

Let every kindred every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

Verse 4:

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all

God Shall Arise (Psalm 68)

Jason Brown | Mike Rogers | Zach Schlegel

Verse 1:

God shall arise and scatter His foes.
All who oppose Him shall flee.
As they are driven from His Holy presence
None shall escape their defeat.
God shall arise the righteous rejoice.
Filled with great joy they shall sing.
As they are drawn to His Holy presence
Jubilant praises they'll bring.

Chorus:

Sing unto God.
O Praise His Great Name.
He leads out the pris'ner to freedom unchained.
Our God, the King stands alone.
As Shield and Defender, Redeemer, Protector
Father of orphans who calls His own home.

Verse 2:

Blessed be the Lord, Victorious King,
Justice revealed in His might.
Kings and their armies are conquered before Him.
The guilty are sentenced to die.
Blessed be the Lord who daily sustains.
He will deliver from death
Those He has called to His great procession
to eternal praises and rest.

Verse 3:

God rose and marched before His beloved.
The earth quaked the skies rained abroad.
His flock found their dwelling
which He had provided.
Proving the goodness of God.
From out of the grave Jesus arose,
conquering death and it's sting.
He is the Light and the Truth and The Way
to dwell with the Almighty King!

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther | Matt Boswell | Frederick Hedge

Verse 1:

A mighty fortress is our God
A bulwark never failing
Our Helper He amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe
His craft and pow'r are great
And armed with cruel hate
On earth is not His equal

Verse 2:

Did we in our own strength confide
Our striving would be losing
Were not the right man on our side
The man of God's own choosing
Dost ask who that may be
Christ Jesus it is He
The Lord of Hosts, His name
From age to age the same
And He must win the battle

Chorus:

A mighty fortress! A rock unfailing
The King of Glory forever! Amen!
For endless ages enthroned in praises
The King of Glory forever! Amen!

Verse 3:

And tho' this world with devils filled
Should threaten to undo us
We will not fear for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us
The prince of darkness grim
We tremble not for him
His rage we can endure
For lo his doom is sure
One little word shall fell him

Verse 4:

That word above all earthly pow'rs
No thanks to them abideth
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Thro' Him who with us sideth
Let goods and kindred go
This mortal life also
The body they may kill
God's truth abideth still
His kingdom is forever

Responsive Scripture Reading — Psalm 89:1-9 (ESV)

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

² For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

³ You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴ “I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.””

⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

⁶ For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

⁷ a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

⁸ O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?

⁹ You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

Jane Borthwick | Jason Ingram | Jean Sibelius | Kari Jobe | Kathrina von Schlegel

Verse 1:

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul, thy best thy heav'nly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Verse 2:

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below

Chorus:

In You I rest
in You I find my hope
In You I trust
You never let me go
I place my life
within Your hands alone
Be still my soul

Verse 3:

Be still my soul the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored
Be still my soul when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last

Sermon Notes

“Where Is Your Faith?” :: Luke 8:22-39

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, May 17

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

Monday, May 18

Tuesday, May 19

Wednesday, May 20

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

Thursday, May 21

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Sunday, May 31

Members' Meeting immediately following the worship service

Sunday, June 7

Children's DiscipleLIFE Promotion Sunday
5pm — Church Picnic

Wednesday, June 17

7pm — Summer Seminar #1: "Marijuana and the Christian"

June 22—26

9am—12:15pm — Vacation Bible School

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.)

Wednesday, July 22

7pm — Summer Seminar #2: "Deacons, Part 1: Deacons and the Bible"

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of May 17

Prayer of the week:

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, consider using the words from the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:1-2. If you're praying through the church directory, consider asking God to do these things in those you're praying for each day:

*"[may you] present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing
you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

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 (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 upcoming Members Meeting on May 31 after worship. Pray that God would continually help us to grow in unity and service to one another as fellow believers here at FBCUM and help us work together for kingdom purposes. (Eph 4:2-3)
- 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 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:

Connie Crawford, Jackie Jones, Ashley Smith (death of grandfather), Marty Trott & Family (death of wife, Bonnie) , [consult the church directory for a list of those who are homebound and unable to attend]

(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.*

Children’s Ministry

Pam Jensen :: Children’s Ministry Leader

The Children’s Ministry is a program of the church that encompasses several areas: ChildLIFE, DiscipleLIFE, Awana, and VBS. Each Sunday morning our Children’s DiscipleLIFE classes begin at 9am for babies through sixth grade. Excited children arrive with their parents and are checked-in to join their classmates and teachers to explore the word of God.

The Children’s Ministry does not stop there. During the academic year from September through May, we provide the Awana program on Wednesday nights. But wait there’s more, we also have our VBS (Vacation Bible School) week during the summer. Each of these programs keep our children focused on the word of God and brings encouragement through memorizing scripture and working through materials that brings scripture to life. There is truly nothing more rewarding than to see how children respond when they actually gain understanding. Let’s break this down so you may get a clear picture of what each one of these programs bring in discipling children.



Awana is a program that follows the academic year for children from PreK 3- Sixth grade. The children are registered to Awana clubs by age/grade: Cubbies - PreK 3-4; Sparks - K-2 Grade; Truth and Training (T&T) - 3rd –6th Grade). Each club receives an age-appropriate book to work with their parents to help them memorize, learn, and understand the context of scripture.

As children advance by demonstrating what they have learned with leaders, they receive badges for their accomplishments. Awana Clubs also gives children opportunities to develop Christian values through teamwork as they participate in games and activities. In Awana clubs, points are earned through various activities and achievements, mainly centered around scripture memorization, handbook completion, there is remembering to be prepared and general participation. These points are used for individual rewards, team competitions, and to redeem items at an Awana Super Store. The last day for Awana is May 20, 2026. They will return September 9, 2026.

Ministry Spotlight

VBS is coming soon! Get ready for Illumination Station! Illumination Station is our theme for this year's VBS, and it encourages us to see Jesus as the Light of the world! ***John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***



VBS will encourage children to see how light brightens and impacts the world around us. Jesus is the Light who brings hope to the darkness. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, saves us and faithful to keep all His promises to us. VBS results in 15 hours (3 hours a day for 5 days) of intense discipleship and daily exposure to the gospel. IT'S WORTH IT! At VBS children will be singing, crafting, playing games, having Bible study and they will hear the truth of the gospel. ***Please contact Monica Kergel for more details.***

The Children's Ministry has many moving parts and the person that oversees this magnificent program of the church has to be quite organized and have a heart to lead and serve children of the church. **Pam Jensen, Children's Ministry Leader** has been serving at this church for more than 20 years and has developed our Children's Ministry Guidelines for Care, Instruction and Protection. This is no easy feat. She is committed to her work and has encouraged leaders to grow! Our church has been blessed with her determination to bring opportunities for children to grow in Christ. The gospel is heard every week. And the success of these programs reflect the work that she does.

She acknowledges the ChildLIFE Ministry Leader, Ashley Meekins-Smith, and the Awana Commander, Ronnie Sweetman, for the work that they do along with all of the volunteers that serve in Awana, ChildLIFE, the DiscipleLIFE teachers that prepare and instruct children each Sunday morning, and Monica Kergel for leading VBS. Pam is so grateful and appreciates everyone that has participated or *will participate in the future.*

Thank you volunteers, leaders, parents, and children make the Children's Ministry a huge success others are welcome to join us in teaching children about Jesus!

Announcements

1. **Young Adult Gathering :: May 30 at 5pm :: Home of Zach and Katie Schlegel.** Young Adults are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments. Contact Tre Fields for more info or questions.

2. **Church Members' Meeting :: Sunday, May 31, following worship service.**

3. **Church Picnic — “Celebrating the Faithfulness of God” — Sunday, June 7 at 5pm.** This year’s church picnic is a special event to celebrate the faithfulness of God here at FBCUM. The celebration begins with a catered meal on the front lawn. As always, bring along your picnic items (lawn chairs, blankets, games, etc.) Please consider a donation of any amount to help offset the cost of catering. Then, we’ll gather inside for a special presentation that will reflect on God’s faithfulness in the past and share vision for the future ministry of FBCUM. We’re looking forward to a joyful afternoon of fellowship as a church family.

4. **VBS 2026 “Illumination Station” :: June 22-26 :: 9am-12:15pm.** Open to kids K—6th grade.

- 5/27 — Registration opens
- 6/7 — Volunteer Mandatory Meeting
- 6/20 — VBS Decoration Day (9am-1pm, no young children)
- Contact Monica Kergel

“Acts of Faith” Performing Arts Track :: after VBS, 1pm-3pm. Open to kids grades 2-6

- Emphasis on music, acting, and dance
- performance planned for Friday during VBS Worship Rally Celebration
- Contact Jason Brown

5. **Summer Seminars.** Mark your calendars and join us for a series of Summer Seminars led by the elders regarding important topics for our church on the following Wednesdays from 7-8pm:

- June 17 — “Marijuana and the Christian”
- July 22 — “Deacons, Part 1: Deacons and the Bible”
- August 12 — “Deacons, Part 2: Church History and Our History”

6. **Glover Scholarship.** If you are a church member and a 2026 high school graduate attending college in the fall, you are eligible to apply for the John and Ethel Glover Scholarship. Contact Mike Rogers (mrogers@fbcum.org) for an application or more info. Deadline for submissions is June 21st.

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:

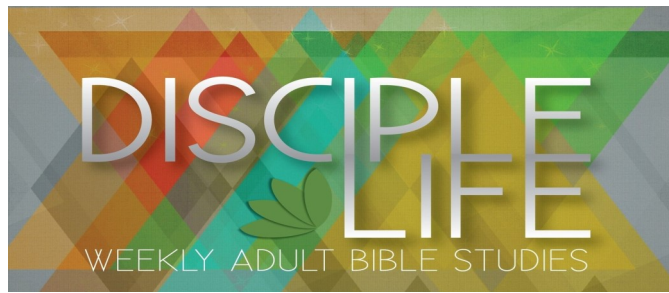
- **online:** click the link or scan the QR code,
- **in-person:** designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- **by mail:** send to the church office.



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.





Summer 2026 (June - August) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:

SUMMER SESSION BEGINS SUNDAY, JUNE 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 – Joshua, Judges, Ruth:

The books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth examine the highs and lows of leadership. While Joshua celebrates the blessings of leadership at its best, Judges offers a cautionary tale of leadership gone wrong. And Ruth reminds us that even in the worst of times, God is still at work, raising leaders from the most unlikely of places. By studying Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, we see leadership from every angle—and we're challenged to reserve our ultimate loyalty for our ultimate Leader. (Books will be available in room 114 Sunday, May 24th.)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 114 :: Teachers: Bill Lowry & Vince Butler**
- **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 — Suffering:

“If you live long enough you will suffer. The only alternative to not suffering is not living long enough. If that’s the case, we should labor to be ready and equipped with God’s grace and God’s truth, so we can face suffering to the glory of God. Join us as we think through what it looks like to trust God in our suffering to the glory of God.”

- **Room 117/118 :: Teachers - Zach Schlegel & TBD**

Elective Class — Titus & Philemon (Young Adults 18-35):

This class will take an in-depth look at the New Testament Paul's letters to Titus and Philemon.

- **Room 112 :: Teachers - Tre Fields & TBD**

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



The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 8:22-39](#)

“Where is Your Faith”– May 17, 2026



Introduction

Uncertainty in life can pull us away from God. Those uncertainties can lead to anxiety and questions like “what if?.” Are you paralyzed by “what ifs?” What are those things that cause you to ask “what if?” We all fear different things at varying levels, but we all fear what we can't control. Fear is our response to the uncertainty of our resources in the face of danger. Not all fear is sinful. Legitimate fear crosses the line into sinful fear depending on whether or not what we fear takes control of our lives rather than God being in control. It is God who should drive our decisions. What do you do with a God you can't control?

Sermon Outline

1. Trust the God Who is greater than your fear. Vs. 22-25
2. Display trust in God with your obedience. Vs. 26-39

Read & Discuss

1. Read Vs. 22-25

This event is not a parable for hard times. It is an actual, historical account - it really happened. There really was a storm. They really were going to die. Jesus really did calm the storm. Remember, John the Baptist had doubts, and Jesus pointed to His miracles as signs to prove who He is. The focal point of this text is Jesus' authority and His power further proving Who He is.

Whose idea was it to get in the boat? Jesus. He set the agenda. He knew what would happen. It was planned. As they sailed, what was Jesus doing? Sleeping. Remember that Jesus was fully God and fully man. Being fully God, He was about to hush the storm, but before that, in His humanity, He was completely exhausted.

The disciples were professional fishermen and familiar with storms. However, this storm was so violent that the boat was filling with water. This wasn't a minor problem. As they hung on for dear life, Jesus was sleeping. Can you understand how they might have felt? What storms in your life have been overwhelming? Whatever the storm, you probably know you are not in control. You may think that failure is a real possibility which fills your mind with “what ifs.” In those times, do you wonder where God is? Does He see? Does He care?

In their terror, they woke Jesus. Then, He rebuked the storm! By His authority, the winds and waves obeyed. The disciples were afraid of the storm. Jesus didn't expect a stoic response, but He does expect trust. They had seen so much already. They believed and had faith. The problem was that their faith was too small. It was there, but needed to grow. What about you? Does your faith need to grow?

Sometimes wind can be destructive, but scientists have discovered that wind is important to strengthen the tree's roots and trunks. The same is true for our faith. God uses trials, hardships and loss to strengthen our faith. ([James 1:2-4](#)) Have you considered that God is using the trial in your life to do just that?

Jesus calms the storm, and the disciples are still afraid. Their fear had shifted from the storm to fearing Jesus, who they can't control. ([Psalm 89:1-9](#)) In calming the storm, Jesus was showing the disciples that He is God. The antidote to our sinful fear is not to just get rid of it, but to replace it with the fear of God. You must see God rightly so that your problems have their rightful place. Don't ignore your fear; it is a spiritual barometer. Ask yourself what your fear is telling you. Then replace the fear of “what if” with the fear of God. ([Proverbs 14:26](#)) Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is the Judge. ([Luke 12:4](#)) If you fear God, then every other fear has its place. The point of this miracle is NOT that every Christian gets rescued from their storm. The point is Jesus' authority and power. He is the King. He is the Messiah. One day, all wrongs will be made right and death will be defeated.

2. Read Vs. 26-39

As soon as Jesus and the disciples stepped off the boat, they were met by a man possessed by demons. Demons are real, and they are active. But the point here is to see Jesus' unlimited authority and unrivaled power.

This man had been bound, but he had strength to break the shackles. That may sound like freedom, but it wasn't. Since the Garden, Satan has been telling mankind that there is freedom in breaking with God. Sin promises a lot - power, wealth, pleasure, etc. Under the bait, there is a hook waiting to kill you.

This man was poor, naked, full of scabs, scars and cuts. He lived in a cemetery. Does that sound like freedom? He lost his sense of self and self-control. Satan's influence is not limited to demon possession. He is happy to fly under the radar leading people to self-destruction. Society may consider drunkenness or being high as no big deal, but it IS giving oneself to the control of a substance. Satan wants to destroy you! He will use any means possible. ([1 Peter 5:8](#))

The good news is that no one is beyond a remedy. Jesus has the power to set people free. That is the point of this text. Notice who was frightened in this section of the text. It was the demon who recognized who Jesus is. The demon knew that Jesus had absolute authority and power over Satan.

Now healed and no longer under the grip of evil, the man was finally in his right mind. True, biblical freedom is being set free from sin in order to obey Jesus Who is a much better master. This man had been made a new creation. Sin enslaves, but that slavery is not seen until it is too late. Your salvation is no less a miracle than the miracle done for this man. Do you see your salvation that way?

How did the crowd respond? They asked Jesus to leave because they were seized with great fear. There is a fear that draws us close to Jesus, but there is also a fear that pushes Jesus away, rejecting Him. In asking Him to leave, they were saying that they preferred a demon possessed man over Jesus. They preferred the evil that they knew instead of Jesus over Whom they had no control. What might they have feared? Losing money? ([Mark 5:1-20](#)) What else might they lose? What will you lose by following Jesus

All of the people of the Gerasene were under the influence of Satan. They were respectable people doing respectable things. However, God's word to them had been choked by the cares, pleasure and riches of life. Do you find their rejection of Jesus shocking? This could be you if you're not careful. How do you break free from the things of this world? You must see something more beautiful, powerful, and glorious than the things of the world. You must see Jesus.

The demons were sent into a herd of pigs after which those same pigs went over a cliff into the water. It must have been a hideous sight. However, the sight of those dead pigs floating in the lake is a gracious warning. If you push Jesus away, you run the risk of drowning in the Lake of Fire. We are all born under the grip of evil. We deserve the righteous wrath of God. Jesus suffered the pain of death on a cross and the horrors of Hell so that sinners could be accepted and forgiven. Do you see the beauty in this? Do you see the goodness of Jesus in this? See His superior glory and power. Turn from your sin and trust in Christ today.

Because of God's gracious work, the healed man now wanted nothing but to be with Jesus. However, Jesus sent Him away to declare what God had done for him. How did he respond? He obeyed. He went away to proclaim how much God had done for him. The town had rejected Jesus, but God left this town with a witness. There is a lot of darkness around us in the world. There is still hope because God has left a witness. We must go and tell how much God has done for us. Will you join in telling our towns how much Jesus had done for you?

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: [Hebrews 4:14-5:10](#) "Christ Our Advocate"

Family Guide for week of May 17th, 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 May 17th, 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 27:57-66

Day 2 – Matthew 28:1-10

Day 3 – Matthew 28:11-15

Day 4 – Matthew 28:16-20

Day 5 – 1 Samuel 1:1-20

*Read Hebrews 4:14-5:20 in preparation for church on Sunday, May 24, 2026

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 19 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Thank God for allowing us to ask questions about faith and for giving us parents and leaders to answer those questions.

Sing together

“A Mighty Fortress” – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

Memory verses for the month

1 John 3:5 “You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.”

Psalms 145:11 “They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power.”

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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