



GROUNDING

// WALKING IN THE STEPS OF GOD
SERIES STARTS 1.6.19

WELCOME

What specific plot of earth on this planet is your favorite?

Is it your home town? Your 1st house? Perhaps a school, a beach, a mountain, or a store. These spots have power in us. They exert gravity in a unique way because of memory, experience, familiarity or relationship. We are tied to them beyond their actual make-up (dirt, buildings, trees, etc.) to what they represent.

Scripture has many such spots. God's story occurs in specific and special places, most of which still exist. Like our special places, these move beyond simple rock, soil and edifice to something much deeper.

Through Easter, we will explore these spaces. We'll study what makes each important. We'll learn more about the message they carry and how our 'Grounded-ness' in Christ can grow as we understand more about the important places in God's story.

Come and learn. Let's get some dirt under our fingernails and dig deeper into the Ground of God.

FOR MORE INFO, MAPS AND DIRECTIONS, VISIT

THE RIVER CRC.COM



Our Mission: We exist to make disciples who put God's love on display to our world.

Our Vision is to see a people inspired by God's love and faithfully sharing that love with the world.

Our Values: Every member of The River is daily and communally engaged in a deeper relationship with Jesus through...



We welcome people into our lives appreciating our differences and similarities.



We will grow by following the Holy Spirit's work in and around us.



We will give generously of our time, talents and finances to see God's kingdom grow.



We will go where God calls us to go.



We will serve intentionally using and growing the gifts God has given us.



Beautiful Gate Lesotho exists to reach out to orphaned, abandoned, and neglected children ages newborn to 5 years old, and give them the love they need and deserve.

In a country afflicted by overwhelming poverty (2 in 5 people live on less than \$1 a day) and extreme disease (over 1 in 4 people are HIV positive), children are often treated with no more respect

or worth than a discarded candy wrapper. Children are sometimes found in a trash dumpster, a toilet pit, or alone in a forest. We seek to give them the opportunity to be more than just a statistic. We strive to give them the opportunity to just be kids. Beautiful Gate Lesotho seeks to glorify God by giving these children their childhood while they wait for their forever families. The ultimate goal is to unite these children with forever families that will love them as their own. Until that is accomplished, Beautiful Gate Lesotho is their family. The staff and volunteers love these children as their own. The children at Beautiful Gate Lesotho have lives that reflect those of any other child. They are given opportunities to go to school, play with their friends, and help out around their houses. They have the same physical and emotional needs that all children do. It does not matter whether they are orphaned or abandoned, they are still children, and their first and foremost identity is as a precious child made in the image of a loving, Heavenly Father.



The people of The River believe in investing in outreach activities. One of the ways that we do this is by supporting both financially and prayerfully a number of different organizations, ministries and Christian groups.

There will be two offerings each Sunday. The first one is for The River Life Fund. The schedule for the second offering is as follows:

- January 6– Benevolence
 - January 13– Missions
 - January 20– Christian Education Fund (CEF)
 - January 27– Grace Valley CRC (Las Vegas)
 - February 3– Benevolence
 - February 10– Missions
 - February 17– CEF
 - February 24– Beautiful Gate, Lesotho, Africa
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THE RIVER REUSES

The earth is a gift from God the Creator. Please help us be good stewards. On your way out, please drop your weekly shell in the bins by the exits to be used again the following week.

welcome to the river

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS – January 6

LEGACY NIGHTS SPRING 2019 will kick off on January 9th! There will be a new set of classes that will be held, so check out our website or the flyer in the foyer with more information. **SAVE THE DATE:** Wednesday, January 23 is our Legacy Nights “Souper Bowl.” Start looking for your favorite soup and be ready to prepare and bring.

THE JANUARY SERIES from Calvin College will be streamed at The River until January 23rd at 9:30 am each morning; informational posters with the speaker for each day are located in the foyer.

HEART AND SOUL BIBLE STUDY will begin on January 16th at 9:30 am. The group will be meeting January 16th and 23rd in the Fellowship Hall.

HIKING MINISTRY is planning a hike at Mount Rubidoux on January 26th. Add the date to your calendar! More information to come soon; contact Randall Whitman at randall@whizman.com with questions.

RECENT GUESTS AT THE RIVER– We have an opportunity for you to learn more about what The River Church is all about! Join us for an informal gathering at Next Steps with Pastor Scott on Sunday, January 27th .We will meet after the worship service in The Study for about 45 minutes. Questions? Contact Karen Verhoeven(Karen@therivercrc.com or 909-800-5149)

OUTREACH EVENT 2019 – The outreach event is planned for January 19, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will offer a “Moms Night Out” to the women and families living at Hannah’s House of Hope and the women who belong to the Thrive Single Mom’s organization. We will offer free childcare for 25 children, and need childcare providers. If you would like to volunteer for this outreach event please contact Debbie at Debbie@therivercrc.com.

welcome to the river

WOMEN'S VINTAGE FASHION SHOW AND TEA– Ladies: We are looking for **wedding dresses** to borrow for our Vintage Fashion Show and Tea which will be held at 1:30 on Feb. 9. If you have a dress of your own, or mother, grandmother, etc., please sign up in the foyer. We are also looking for **photos** (formal and informal) from your wedding day. Make sure they are labeled and get them to Beth Kimm or at the front desk of The River. We will take great care of them. If you have a **fun story** in regards to your wedding day, jot it down and get this to Beth Kimm, Karen Verhoeven or the front desk as well. We would like to include this in the narrative of the afternoon. **Sign up** yourself and your mothers, daughters to join us for a fun afternoon. There will be lots of laughter, reminiscing, and encouragement between all of the generations. See you there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATE AND SARAH HEUKER on the birth of their daughter Joanna Ruth Heuker. Joanna joined the family on December 27th. We praise God everyone is healthy and the great gift to their family.

NEXT SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery: Gerrit and Erin Wagner, Judy Rickard, Savannah Cesario

Cookie Time: Ginger Mulder, Jessica Hekman, Mona Yarnell, and Rachel Keast

To contact the Care Ministry Team or a pastor, call the church office at 909-798-2221.

Grounded: Walking in the steps of God Genesis 2:4-25

Why are we studying geography?

A. 4-7: We get a picture of creation that's a little confusing.

"The Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground." Vs. 5, 6

B. 8-14: Eden is placed.

"A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four head waters." Vs. 10

Have you ever gone home again?

C. 15-17: Man starts his work.

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." Vs. 15

D. 18-25: Humanity begins its "together" journey.

"But for Adam no suitable helper was found." Vs. 20

E. So why is the land important?

What Eden teaches us about the "Promised Land"