



# 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
- 

### **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 – February 3

**STEPHEN MINISTRY INFORMATION MEETING**– there will be an informational meeting today regarding Stephen Ministry. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am in The Study. Come if you would like to learn more about how you can take a role in Stephens Ministry in our church.

**THE MISSIONS TEAM** is looking for individuals or families to contact our 11 missionaries. Those willing would need to e-mail one missionary a month and the next month you would write a different missionary. Contact Eileen VanderLinde at [eileen.vanderlinde@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.vanderlinde@gmail.com) with questions.

**LEGACY NIGHTS** will not be meeting this week, due to the 5 Wednesdays in January, and will resume on the 2nd Wednesday in February on February 13th!

**NEW LEGACY NIGHTS OPPORTUNITY** - If you have been fortunate enough to attend any of the Calvin College free daily lectures then you know the quality of the speakers at the January Series. The River Church has some of these lectures on DVD. We are going to start to show some of these lectures at Legacy Nights. On February 13, you are invited to watch and listen to Mary Hulst speak about "Why Millennials Are the Hope of the Church" in The Study.

**DISCIPLES GROW** – A disciple chooses to live like Christ and grow in Him. Who are YOU discipling? Who is discipling YOU? Please accept the challenge to be involved in a disciple group: Join one! Start one! Lead one! A table for sign-ups is in the foyer today. Contact Karen Verhoeven with questions at [Karen@therivercrc.com](mailto:Karen@therivercrc.com).

**SENIOR SAINTS**- Please save the date as the Hospitality and Care Team would like to invite you to a "Wearing of the Green" event at The Village of Redlands on March 9th at 2:30 PM. Come for a fun afternoon of fellowship.

# welcome to the river

**COLD WEATHER SHELTER** – There are changes in Redlands with the Cold Weather Shelter and more volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Debbie Bueermann at Debbie@therivercrc.com.

## **NEXT SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

**Nursery:** Steve & Kris Kok, Bev Hix, Savannah Cessario

**Cookie Time:** Carol Jones, Carol Kreuter, Carolyn Boersen, Carynna Shinski, Cecilia Whitman

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

# Grounded: Egypt

Genesis 41:41-57

**Have you ever had anyone overstay their welcome?**

**A. 41-44: Joseph's life radically changes.**

"So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.'" Vs. 41

**B. 46-49: Joseph gets to work and is incredibly successful.**

"Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping record because it was beyond measure." Vs. 49

**Sometimes patience is more than a virtue.**

**C. 50-52: Joseph's life continues to change.**

"The second son he named Ephraim and said, 'It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.'" Vs. 52

**D. 53-57: Joseph's work is fulfilled.**

"And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere." Vs. 57

**D. So why is the land important?**

**Safety and refuge vs. Faith**