

# Life Signs

## Together on the Journey **Randy Crutchfield**

I would love for you to go on a journey with me. This is a different journey than most and will not need a travel agent. This journey will be called “the Good News” and will consist of us as an entire church family walking through the Gospel of Mark. In practical terms, each week we will hear a sermon from a selection from Mark and then the following week we will get a chance to discuss what we have read and heard in a Connection Group.

Have you ever read something or heard a message and you would have loved to chat about it with others so that you could chew on it a little bit more thoroughly? Connection groups will help make that happen. We will have five groups available each week where you can connect with God and others. Please sign up the next few weeks with one of our groups!

We can learn on our own, but for me, being with a group of people and learning together has brought me much farther along than if I was just learning on my own. Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” God made us to need each other to be an integral part of each others spiritual journey.

To supplement each connection group, there will be a short Francis Chan video clip to help generate conversation, and if someone chooses they may purchase a daily devotional guide that follows each week's lesson. *(Contact me if you have any questions about this.)*

Please consider making a personal commitment to be a part of what God is doing in our First Baptist family.

*Blessings, Randy Crutchfield*

**“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”**

**1 John 4:7-12**

## Growing Connections Josh White

A couple of weeks ago, six adults and eleven youth spent the weekend at Indian Creek Baptist Camp building relationships and learning about Jesus at our Winter Retreat. During the weekend we explored the theme of seeing Jesus as the True Light and True Vine. We looked at the Gospels of John and Matthew, and even looked briefly at Revelation. As we studied these passages, we discovered that Jesus shines a light into our darkness whether that be depression, anxiety, hate, fear, etc. He shines that light because He *is* the Light. We also learned that we get to share that light with others through the way we treat others, support others, and share Christ with them. We finished the weekend looking at what it means that Jesus is the True Vine. We learned that Jesus is the source of life as it is meant to be. He not only shines a light in our darkness but helps us overcome the darkness in our lives.

Connecting to Jesus, the true light and source of life (vine), is not something only youth need. We all need to connect to the Vine. As a group, we discussed the importance of reading scripture, praying, connecting to the Christian community (Church), serving others, worship, and even sharing our stories of God's work in our lives. These are all ways we connect to the Vine.

I often find in different seasons of life some of the connection points are more difficult to connect to than others. But I want to encourage everyone to connect to the Vine, even if it's just at one or two of the connection points. Let Jesus be your true source of life. Who knows, you might become that beautiful vine in a garden that has a million connections. It starts with just one true connection to our Creator through Jesus.



## Goals for Growth Kelly Rector

### Here are some of 2020's ministry goals for FBC Kidz!

To connect Kidz and Families to Christ, His Word and to His Body by:

- Making sure each child has a Bible that is at their level and is one they want to read! We have already given away 4 Bibles this year. Here is one mom's testimony after her child received her new Bible, "SHE requested to have a bible reading party today. And read the first 4 chapters in Genesis. Talk about making a momma happy!!! "
- Encouraging each child to develop a habit of reading God's Word on a daily basis. We are starting by doing a "Bible Reading Challenge". For every week a child checks off that he/she reads their Bible for at least 5 days, they will receive a prize on Sunday. There are 5 levels of prizes they can get ranging from stuffed animals (dogs that say "Bible Buddy" on them) to games to books and DVDs that will also help them grow with God.
- Having another I'm a Christian Now class! This is the class for kids who are interested in baptism and knowing what it means to be a Christian and follower of Christ. On February 23rd, we completed our latest "I'm a Christian Now" class. We had 6 kids, who all invited Jesus into their hearts! Please be in prayer for these children and their growth with God.



Kidz from our most recent "I'm a Christian Now!" Class



### March Birthdays

Debra Alcorn	03/03
Tom McClelland	03/04
Melanie Fuhrman	03/05
Sherrill Holt	03/05
Francine Cull	03/07
Elora Cobb	03/12
Emily Goins	03/12
Paulina Giltner	03/13
Susan Sparks	03/14
Josh White	03/16
Mark Totten	03/17
Anna Brierly	03/19
Mayra Giovanetti	03/20
Mary Elliott	03/21
Bill McClelland	03/21
Irvin Stockdale	03/21
Paul Konkle	03/22
Marlana Schafer	03/22
Bob Demaree	03/24
Rick Humphrey	03/24
Jonathan Stanley	03/25
Jason Schafer	03/28

### March Anniversaries

Christian & Jenny Cable	03/05
Dean & Cheryl Morris	03/15
Wayne & Elyse Detmer	03/18
Rick & Connie Dalgleish	03/19
Steven & Kathy Stoner	03/21

# March 2020

Every Sunday  
 8:45a Traditional Worship  
 10:00a Sunday School  
 11:00a Contemporary Worship  
 5:30p Bible Study  
 @ Lower Auditorium

Every Monday  
 \* 1:00p Bible Study  
 @ FBC Library  
 \* 6:30p Bible Study  
 @ Andersons'

Every Tuesday  
 2:45p Homework Helpers  
 @ Lydia Middleton

Every Wednesday  
 2:45p Homework Helpers  
 @ Lydia Middleton  
 5:30p Bible Study  
 @ Eggleston  
 5:30p Youth Group  
 @ Eggleston  
 \* 5:45p Bible Study  
 @ All State Building  
 6:30p Choir Rehearsal

Every Thursday  
 2:45p Homework Helpers  
 @ Lydia Middleton  
 6:00p Women's Study &  
 Activity @ Eggleston  
 \* 7:00p Bible Study  
 @ Lower Auditorium

\*Begins week of March 15th

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12:30p KidMin Training @ Basement 1:30p Shut-in Communion 4:30p Deacons	2 6p AB Women Executive Board 7p AB Men @ Mt. Pleasant	3 10a Fellowship Meal Help Meeting	4 12p Lent Service @ First Christian Church	5	6 7p Organ Concert	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 10a Deaconess 5:00p Creative Kidz Club	9 5p Finance Team	10 6p Property Team 6p Mission Circles	11 12p Lent Service @ First Baptist 5:30p Sister Church	12 5:30p Church Council	13 7p Worship Through the Word @ Eggleston	14
15 Small Groups Begin (see sidebar for days and times)	16 7p AB Madison Assoc. Board @ N Madison Baptist	17	18 12p Lent Service @ Prince of Peace	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21
22 5:00p Creative Kidz Club	23	24	25 12p Lent Service @ Resurrection Lutheran	26	27	28
29	30	31				