

BREAKING Ground



April 2020

Solid Ground

Our focus on the Ten Commandments this year provides a clear picture of how our Lord intends us to live in relationship with Him and our neighbors. As we walk together in the Breaking Ground campaign our foundation is established in Christ alone!

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy” (Exodus 20:8). The 3rd commandment lays the final stone of our foundation of God’s instruction in what is called the First Table. The first three commandments focus our relationship with God: how we are to live, act and relate to our creator and redeemer. For the first 40 years of my life this commandment spoke to me in one way, over the last 30 days it has taken a deeper meaning.

For years the commandment resonated in my ear calling me to attend a worship service each week in a certain place at a certain time. Then we were struck with corona virus. Consider with me the questions presented in the book of Ezekiel to gain perspective. In Ezekiel 1 we hear how God’s glory, the image of our Lord’s throne departs Jerusalem and goes into Babylon. Ezekiel who was a priest that was going to begin serving in the temple wondered why the glory of God had left Jerusalem. But does God only work in the temple? The book develops as Ezekiel is called to serve God’s people as a prophet. God was working in a new place, Babylon, yet the requirement was the same: listen to God speak through His Word.

At Jordan, we are devotionally walking through the Ten Commandments and April focuses on remembering the Sabbath during a month we are asked not to assemble in large groups for the health of our families and neighbors. So what do we do? Have no fear, God’s church is not closed. God has not stopped speaking rather we experience like Ezekiel a reminder God will talk to his people even from a new location.

Each and every week in April, God’s people at Jordan will assemble in worship of God to hear his Word. We will be reminded God blesses us with daily bread that we need for today. All of the additional activities we engaged in have changed and we are laid bare before those we interact with each week.

As new patterns are made, the void of regular human interaction cannot and must not mean forgetting to honor the Sabbath. That means we remain focused on what God is doing in His Word preached and shared with us in Scripture. Just as Ezekiel was shocked to see the throne of God outside Jerusalem in his vision in Ezekiel chapter 1 we have woken up to a new world where the proclamation of God’s activity in the world is happening in new ways overnight.

Listen to God speak to Ezekiel as he prepared to teach about God’s work among the exiles. *“But the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and he spoke with me and said to me, “Go, shut yourself within your house.”* (Ezekiel 3:24 ESV) The Lord spoke to Ezekiel in his house and so we can also hear from God in our homes as we listen to his Word.

Our Lord comes to us even during this unique time in our lives. We still honor the Sabbath by engaging in worship of God via new technology and singing hymns and hearing the Scriptures. New words like ‘Zoom’ have provided us with virtual classrooms for instruction. Mailed Sunday School lessons encourage parents to educate their children. Phone calls are made sharing encouragement from fellow Christians.

God’s church is not closed. God has opened new doors for each of us to honor the Sabbath. Even as we yearn for the return from our present exile we connect more fully with Ezekiel who spoke of restoration to God people who were in exile in Babylon. Our Lord will restore us to a new day. Until that day of restoration we cling to God’s Word gladly hearing it and learning what we need at this hour. God is doing a work in us this month his glory to behold: *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.* (Ezekiel 11:19-20 ESV)

in Christ, Pastor Mike

GROWING



SPROUTS

Memory Work for April:

Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What Does This Mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Breaking Ground Campaign Update



Update as of March 31, 2020

Ways to Donate

- **Mail donations to the church's locked mailbox** with a Breaking Ground special designation: 1031 Pemberton Hill Rd., Suite 202, Apex, NC 27502
- Sign-up for Joyful Response® **free e-giving** through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- **Donate online** through the website at JordanApex.org/giving
- Direct your **IRA RMD** to Jordan tax-free if you are over 72
- Utilize **Jordan's brokerage account** to make a stock gift
- Include Jordan in your **estate planning**

Questions?

Contact office@jordanchurchnc.org or call Jordan's Office at (919) 303-1613



"The people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD."

1 Chronicles 29:9 ESV

Encouraging Our Spiritual Growth

Consider the following ideas and activities as you look to break ground in your spiritual growth this year.

Know Christ

engagement in Jordan's congregational worship life

- Weekly worship service online
- Bulletin for each service is made available via email links and under the resources tab: <http://jordanax.org/media/sermons>
- Memorize a Bible verse or the Third Commandment.

Grow in Christ

my commitment to study the Scriptures and be in prayer

- Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9 a.m. (Zoom online)
- Teen Bible class at 11 a.m. on Sundays (Zoom online)
- Tuesday Small Group at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom online)

Serve Christ

my active response to use the gifts entrusted to me by God

- Volunteers have made free homemade masks for those in need. Contact the office for details.
- Call a neighbor or make a delivery to someone unable to go to the store or in your neighborhood

Go for Christ

using my vocation to share Christ with others

- *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Color and mail a card to someone in need of prayer
www.visualfaithmin.org

Monthly Prayer

O Lord, our rock, may the power of Your spoken Word heard in the Scriptures and through the proclamation of Your saving Gospel settle our minds amid uncertainty. You have prepared a path forward for us just as you did for the people time and again in the Scriptures, at the flood, in the wilderness wanderings, entering the Promised Land and even the uncertainty felt by your disciples on Good Friday. Holy Spirit give us eyes of faith to recognize your hand upon us each day as we turn to you for repose honoring the Sabbath in our week so that Your name is honored and glorified, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sundays at 9:30 AM at Beaver Creek Cinemas in Apex

1031 Pemberton Hill Rd, Ste 202, Apex, NC 27502
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