

BREAKING Ground



September 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!

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” (Exod. 20:16). Do you trust every word that is spoken, and can people trust every word that you say? In this commandment we learn that our Lord desires to protect the reputation of each person on earth.

Defamation of character is not new yet in a world with social media it is so easy to engage in the destructive behavior. September is the height of hurricane season and has at times provided us with views to destruction like the devastation of Hurricane Laura of a few weeks ago. It is sobering to witness the damage to homes and businesses.

Why are we not as defensive about protecting a person’s reputation? Physical property damaged in a storm can be replaced but a reputation built over decades in a community can be extinguished with a few keystrokes in today’s connected world. Are we quick to judgment when we hear a story about someone’s bad decision in contrast to their decades of service in our neighborhood? Do we work to defend and uplift others even in the face of accusation?

When confronted with a question of who is right and wrong we now even hear talk about fact checkers to keep people honest. How are we to act in a world filled with question? Consider the actions of King Solomon who knew for him to govern God’s people he would need God’s guidance.

Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” (1 Kings 3:9)

King Solomon began with the understanding he was caring for God’s people. All he had flowed first from the Lord and in his role as King. He was to guard and care for all things entrusted to him. What follows Solomon receiving wisdom from the Lord is the account of two mothers each claiming the same child.

Solomon’s answer does not take sides rather he wisely presents a scenario where he suggests the baby be cut in two and shared by both women. The real mother upon hearing this word from the King gives up the rights to the child rather than see her child die. Solomon was given wisdom to discern how to act so that truth would prevail.

May we who are in Christ call upon the Lord to enable us to always take the best construction on the words of others. Let our homes, offices and places of recreation not become ignited by fiery words. May we embody the patience our Lord has shown to us. Let us never bear false witness but hear all things in the kindest way.

A person’s reputation is a precious gift from their creator. We are to honor the reputation of those we agree with as well as those with whom we have a disagreement.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. (James 3:10)

May we who are in Christ reflect his limitless love. We who are aware of God’s love understand Christ died for us while we were still weak (Romans 5:6). Honoring the 8th commandment means taking everything in the kindest way putting the best construction on the words and actions of others. May we offer a different viewpoint but never slander. In election season it is harder for candidates to differentiate themselves when they do not slander. Resorting to false testimony as a short cut to a desired outcome is never appropriate. In Christ we are called to build each other up. Even when on different sides of an issue, we remain one people all made in the image of our creator (Genesis 1:26-27).

in Christ, Pastor Mike

GROWING



SPROUTS

Memory Work for September:

Eighth Commandment

**You shall not give false testimony
against your neighbor.**

What Does This Mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Breaking Ground Campaign Update



Update as of August 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 available online. Bulletin for each service is made available via email links and under the resources tab: JordanApex.org/media/sermons
- Weekly Children's Sermon at JordanApex.org/jordan-juniors
- Outdoor Worship Service - September 27 at 4:30 p.m. (2600 Evans Rd. in Apex)

Grow in Christ

my commitment to study the Scriptures and be in prayer

- K-6 Sunday School lessons begin online Sunday, September 13
- Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9 a.m. (Zoom online)
- Tuesday class taught by Larry Eckart at 7 p.m. (Zoom online) resumes Sept. 22
- Connect with an upcoming Men's or Women's Fellowship event

Serve Christ

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

- Provide school supplies for local teachers and counselors.
- Volunteer at a Chapel Ridge workday (September 12 and 26)
- Generosity toward the local church to enable present and future ministry

Go for Christ

using my vocation to share Christ with others

- Offer encouragement to parents and teachers during a very trying fall semester.
- Tell others how your faith has permitted you to live 2020 one day at a time.

Monthly Prayer

Give ear to our prayer LORD to speak well of our neighbors and not to defame the reputation of another person. In a season of heightened rhetoric across our nation, may the Holy Spirit enable us to live out the 8th commandment so that we do not give false testimony or witness against another person. Guide us LORD so that we may speak well of others and seek to explain all things in the kindest way aware of the value of a good reputation.

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." (Ephesians 4:25)

1031 Pemberton Hill Rd, Ste 202, Apex, NC 27502
919-303-1613 • www.JordanApex.org