

# connect

APRIL-MAY 2018

## THE IMPORTANCE OF INTENTIONAL READING

I am a reader. I love to read. But I was not always a reader. I never read a book until I was 22 years old. I point this out to demonstrate that you can learn to love to read at any time in life. As I look back at the last decade and a half of reading, I can see how my faith, my life, my ministry, and my family have benefited greatly from the love and discipline of reading books.



The discipline of reading is one of the greatest disciplines for personal and spiritual growth. The first step in developing this discipline is simply to start reading books. The second step in developing this discipline is to detect and read good books. The third step in developing this discipline is to create variety and intentionality in the books chosen to read.

People tend to read similar books within narrow parameters. As a result, their reading, no matter the quantity, is very limited. Intentional reading means going outside of those narrow parameters

to force yourself to read a wide variety of books. For example, I love to read non-fiction books, but I very rarely (like almost never) read fiction. While my reading diet will always lean heavily to non-fiction, a serving of fiction can be fun, exciting, and foster greater imagination.

Keeping my head in books steeped in facts and figures will never give me the same thrill and develop the imagination like a good fiction book.

As a result, I ask you to join with me in 2018 to create an intentional reading plan. My plan consists of eighteen categories that I shared in a recent blog post, "18 Books I'm Reading in 2018," available at <https://edwilloughby.wordpress.com>. Your list may be much smaller, but as you think about your reading plan, here are four categories to consider: (1) a book on spiritual growth and discipleship, (2) a biography, (3) a book you've already read, and (4) a fiction book. Let us grow together as we read intentionally in 2018.



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## BIBLE STUDY

- April 1: Revelation 10:1-11:19  
April 8: Revelation 12:1-17  
April 15: Revelation 12:18-13:18  
April 22: Revelation 14:1-20  
April 29: Revelation 15:1-16:21  
May 6: Revelation 17:1-19:5  
May 13: Revelation 19:6-20:15  
May 20: Revelation 21:1-22:5  
May 27: Revelation 22:6-21

### Weekly Questions

1. What images or symbols are present in the text?
2. What do these images or symbols mean?
3. What does the passage teach you about God? How does the passage encourage you to persevere in your faith.



## TABLE TALK

## MIDWEEK

### April 4: The Gospel & Dating 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

- How would you describe the importance of the gospel to dating, relationships, and intimacy?
- How does “youth culture” view dating? How is that different from the Biblical worldview?
- Has your thinking about dating been challenged? If so, how?

### April 11: The Bible & Dating 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

- Why is asking “How far is too far” the wrong question to ask for a Christian teenager?
- Do you think that it is better to be safe than sorry when it comes to purity, even to the point of taking radical steps to ensure purity? Why or why not?
- What are some steps Christian teens can take to guard their heart? Body? Mind? Time?

### April 18: Intrapersonal Relationships Psalm 73

1. What do you like about yourself?
2. What do you not like about yourself?
3. What is 1 thing you would change about your life?

### April 25: Question & Answer/Small Group Fellowship

### May 2: AWANA Awards Ceremony

### May 9: Family Park Night (@ Parr Hill Park)

### May 16: Midweek Movie

### May 23: Midweek Missions

### May 30: Celebrate Summer/VBS

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

*Family Worship*  
by Donald S. Whitney

“*Family Worship* is a biblical, accessible, and indispensable call to arms. It is perfect for the scores of Christian parents who want to impact their families, but have no idea where to start.” —Voddie Baucham Jr.



Join us for  
**Bible Study**  
 Sunday Mornings  
 9:30-10:20 AM  
 as we study through  
**The Revelation of Jesus  
 Christ.**

Join us for  
**Midweek**  
 Wednesday Nights  
 6:00-8:00 pm  
 for our series



**Relationships Reconstructed.**



There is still time and space to sign up for Global Youth Camp for summer 2018. The cost is \$350, but there is still a \$25 discount for turning in your final payment and forms by June 10. We do have scholarships available. We hope no student will let money prevent them from joining us for camp this summer. We will be attending **Global Youth Camp at Fort Mountain Retreat and Conference Center** in Chatsworth, GA the week of **July 8-14, 2018**. There is limited space so sign up at [www.fellowshipjoplin.org/studentevents](http://www.fellowshipjoplin.org/studentevents) today. Camp Packets will be available by May 1, 2018. If you have any questions, e-mail Ed Willoughby at [ed@fellowshipjoplin.org](mailto:ed@fellowshipjoplin.org).



Join Us for Family Night  
 @ Hammons Field &  
 Springfield Cardinals Baseball  
 on April 28 @ 4:10 PM

Tickets are \$10/person  
 for the Dugout Deck  
 Includes Springfield Cardinals Hat

Limited Tickets are Available so Sign Up Today at  
[www.fellowshipjoplin.org](http://www.fellowshipjoplin.org)



Join us as we Celebrate Summer on **Wednesday, May 30** for a float trip down the Elk River . We will meet at the church at **9:00 AM**. We will be on the river from about 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Students should bring a bag lunch to eat while we are on the river. Afterward we will head back to the church to get ready for our first night of VBS. The whole day cost **\$20 per person** or only \$10 each if you bring a friend. This is a great opportunity to invite someone to experience the body of Christ within Student Discipleship @ Fellowship Baptist Church.

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<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/student-discipleship/id1074059417>

# CALENDAR

- APRIL | 20** **SECRET CHURCH**  
FRIDAY // 6:00 PM–12:00 AM
- APRIL | 28** **FAMILY NIGHT**  
SPRINGFIELD CARDINALS BASEBALL @ 4:10 PM
- MAY | 02** **AWANA AWARD CEREMONY**  
WEDNESDAY // 6:00-8:00 PM (NO MIDWEEK)
- MAY | 09** **FAMILY PARK NIGHT**  
WEDNESDAY // 6:00-8:00 PM // PAR HILL PARK
- MAY | 16** **MIDWEEK MOVIE**  
WEDNESDAY // 6:00-8:00 PM
- MAY | 23** **MIDWEEK MISSIONS**  
WEDNESDAY // 6:00-8:00 PM
- MAY | 30** **CELEBRATE SUMMER**  
WEDNESDAY // 10:00 AM–6:00 PM