

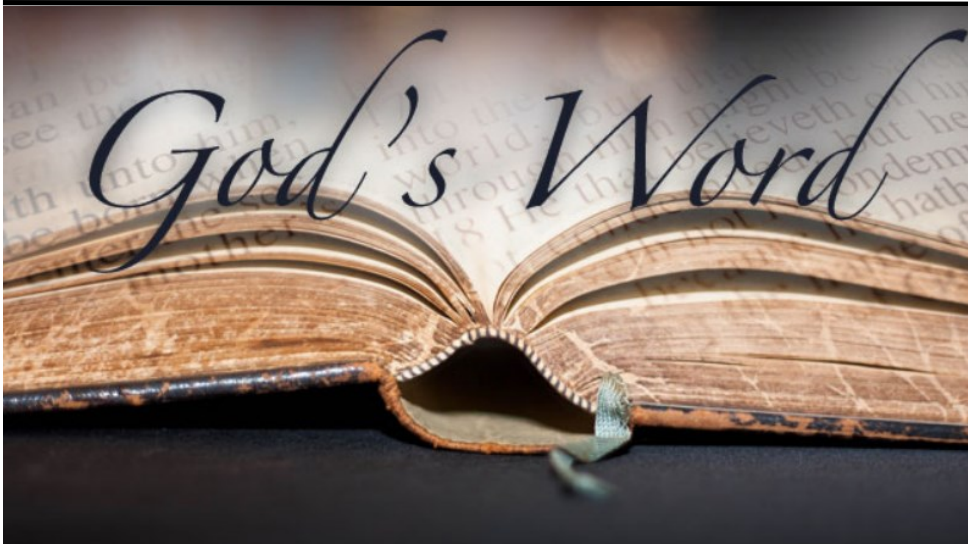


Friendship Church
Loving God...Loving People

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

January 28, 2022

From Pastor Mike...



**In person and Facebook
Live Church Service
Small Groups**

Sunday January 30, 2022

9:30 AM Small Groups — 10:30 Church Service

God's words are good words. God's words are trustworthy and true words. Like the old hymns says, "Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life!" Jesus said in **John 6:63b**, "*The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*" Every time we take a bath in God's Word, we are given a life-giving spiritual infusion of truth.

Psalms 19:7-8 says, "*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*" Revival, wisdom, joy and illumination – all promised through the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God.

I have challenged our congregation in 2022 to everyday make God's Word the first words we wake up to and the last words we read before we go to sleep. Here is how it works: Keep an open Bible by your bedstand. When your alarm goes off in the morning, instead of picking up your phone or tv remote, say "Good morning, Lord" and pick up your Bible. Read His life-giving words before anything else. Then, at night, before you shut off the light to go to sleep, read His Word.

His Word First Word – His Word Last Word. You will be amazed at how much better your days will go!

I love you all,

Pastor Mike

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, January 30	6:00pm	Fifth Sunday Ministry Nite and Lord's Supper
Sunday, February 13		Super Bowl Sunday Fellowships
Monday, February 14		VALENTINES DAY
Sunday, March 6	10:30am	Week of Prayer for North American Missions (Annie Armstrong Offering)
Saturday, March 12	5:00pm	Spring Banquet and Silent Auction (Missions Fundraiser)
Sunday, March 13		DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS
Sunday, April 3	6:00pm	WMBA Evangelism Rally at Friendship
Sunday, April 10	6:00pm	Spring Family Forum
Sunday, April 17	10:30am	RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Tithes & Offerings—January 23
General Offering: \$5,443.00

Birthdays

Jan 31— Kevin King
Feb 2 — Barbara Wright
Feb 5 — Michelle Hayes

Anniversaries

Feb 4 — Richard & Martha Guraedy

Wednesday Evening Service
6:30 PM
In Sanctuary

Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting
at 6 PM on Zoom

ZOOM link for PRAYER MEETING:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86223352309?pwd=NEpmdjBvby9nS1hsK3Z1S3hBMVVPZz09>

ID: 862 2335 2309
Passcode: 553985



Women's One Day Conference

"LIVE THE GOSPEL"

April 30, 2022 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Elmdale Baptist Church, Springdale

\$20 before April 15th | \$25 after April 15th

Fee includes light breakfast, lunch, study materials, and more!

REGISTER NOW SPACE IS LIMITED



Winter Sunday School Study:

Ezekiel; Daniel

God doesn't just want us to read His Word, He wants us to know it and live its truth. That's why Explore the Bible: Adults takes groups book by book through Scripture, framing every passage in its appropriate biblical and cultural context. This winter, we are studying the Books of Ezekiel and Daniel. From familiar stories that have been cherished for generations to intriguing visions of the end times, each book offers its own unique perspective on how God works among His people and how He steadfastly reigns as Lord of all. (13 sessions)

Session 9: Demonstrated Allegiance (Dan. 3:14-26)

God's Presence is Powerful by Tony Evans

You are probably familiar with the story of Shadrach, Meschak and Abednego who got their plans detoured when they stood up for their beliefs. The king had the men tossed into a fiery furnace, nonetheless. Yet, when you read the story in Scripture, you'll see that God's presence with the three men in the fire not only freed them from the restraints that bound their arms, but it also protected them from what should have killed them.

In addition to that, because of what the king witnessed when seeing them walk around, he told his guards to release the men. Thus, God's presence delivered the men out of the fire as well. **God's presence is powerful.** It brings comfort, protection and deliverance in the most trying of times.

There is a lot of confusion today between the connection of obedience to blessing. Many believers assume that if they are obedient to God, they ought to deserve a tangible reward. We live in a rewards-based culture, and that mentality has drifted into the Christian worldview in many ways. However, based on Scripture, many people were worse off in the tangible world when they obeyed. After all, Jesus' obedience led Him to a cross. It is only when we align our understanding of obedience with God's overarching sovereign hand of purpose (and even pruning) that we will be able to approach and go through our detours with faith, trust and dignity rather than doubt.

Far more often than not, **the proof that you are on a divinely-designed detour will come from the realization of God's presence in the midst of difficulty.** It will not come from the immediate removal of difficulty (although that can occur) but rather from the persevering and preserving power given to you by God Himself as you go through the detour.

God didn't keep Daniel from the lion's den; He met him in it. He didn't keep Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace; He joined them in it. He didn't keep Joseph from being a slave to Potiphar; He gave him favor in it. And He met him in the prison as well. The proof in knowing you are where God wants you to be in your detour is that **God doesn't deliver you from it but rather joins you in it.**

Mary and Martha

Have you ever been so busy or so distracted that it was difficult to slow down enough so you could learn from God? It might be that you are concerned busy at work, spending time on social media, or spending time with family and friends. Sometimes we simply might not be interested in learning about Jesus.

In this week's lesson we learn how Mary and Martha spent their time with Jesus.



Mary understood it was important to learn from Jesus. She did not allow other things to get in the way of this. It is possible to make time for God. Just like Mary and Martha, we also have a choice. We can follow Mary's example and make the better choice. Learning from Jesus is the most important way we can spend our time.

Today, we are not able to spend time with Jesus physically, but in many ways, we have the opportunity for something even better! Jesus promised that when He returned to heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit to be with us forever (John 14). Followers of Jesus are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This means that Christians literally have God living inside of us. We can spend time with God any time we want. There is no limit! Any time we want to speak with God, we can pray. Any time we want to hear from God or study Jesus' teaching, we can read the Bible, and the Holy Spirit can help us understand what we read. We can stand in God's presence and worship Him on our own or with other believers. What an incredible opportunity!

Just like Mary made spending time with Jesus a top priority, we should prioritize spending time with God. In addition, we can understand every moment as an opportunity to honor and glorify God.

God is omnipresent (everywhere at all times). We can honor and glorify God through all the ways that we live, work, and play. Mary's time in-person with Jesus was limited, but there is no limit to the amount of time we can spend with God. We should strive to honor Him and put Him first in all things.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for not leaving us alone. We know that You are always with us and that Your Spirit is within us if we follow You. Help us to remember You and think about You as we live our lives, and help us to honor You in all the things we do. We love You. Amen.

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Blessings, Mary Ann

