



# FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

January 29, 2021

Friendship Church  
*Loving God...Loving People*



## From Pastor Mike...



The gospel has the power to change the world! Politics, the economy, education, public policy, etc. – none of these has the power to effect life transformation. There is only one way – Jesus. He said in **John 14:6**, “I am *THE* way, *THE* truth, and *THE* life – no one comes to the Father except through Me!” The gospel indeed has the power to change the world. Do you believe that?

If we believe this central truth, then why aren’t we having more gospel conversations on a daily and weekly basis? I’ve had to ask myself this very question. It could be that we are worn down by the cares of the world or discouraged because people don’t seem to want to hear it. Yet, in the days we live in, I believe people are more open to hearing it than ever – if we will only be obedient to share it!

With this in mind, we have now resumed Wednesday evening midweek worship services at 6:30pm with one focus – to equip us all with tools, encouragement and ways to effectively share our faith with others. Our first and primary mission here on earth is to glorify God by advancing His precious gospel here on earth. The days are short, the laborers few, the field are ripe unto harvest, and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is all-sufficient.

**The future of the world depends on the ability of the average believer to effectively communicate the gospel in everyday conversations.** What if we get equipped, encouraged and motivated to believe God can use us to change the world? What if we begin to name and pray for those closest to us? What if God began to use us in a greater way than ever before? What if we became part of a gospel movement that changed everything? Will you join us in His mission for the world?

I love you all,

Pastor Mike

**Facebook Live Church Service Only**  
**Zoom Small Groups**

Sunday January 31, 2021

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



## SERVICES LIVE ON FACEBOOK

Every Sunday morning at 11am

## ONLINE LIVE PRAYER MEETINGS

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening at 7pm

## SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS

Check with your Sunday School teachers for times

## Get updated prayer requests and announcements.

To sign up, text your name to 479.422.1079

## This Sunday's Gospel Project Lesson (small groups)

### The Mission Begins

Sunday's lesson "*Living Out the Gospel of Jesus*" - [CLICK HERE](#) to download your Sunday School lesson!

In the beginning, the all-powerful, personal God created the universe. This God created human beings in His image to live joyfully in His presence, in humble submission to His gracious authority. But all of us have rebelled against God and, in consequence, must suffer the punishment of our rebellion: physical death and the wrath of God.

Thankfully, God initiated a rescue plan, which began with His choosing the nation of Israel to display His glory in a fallen world. The Bible describes how God acted mightily on Israel's behalf, rescuing His people from slavery and then giving them His holy law. But God's people—like all of us—failed to rightly reflect the glory of God.

Then, in the fullness of time, in the person of Jesus Christ, God Himself came to renew the world and to restore His people. Jesus perfectly obeyed the law given to Israel. Though innocent, He suffered the consequences of human rebellion by His death on a cross. But three days later, God raised Him from the dead.

Now the church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned by God to take the news of Christ's work to the world. Empowered by God's Spirit, the church calls all people everywhere to repent of sin and to trust in Christ alone for our forgiveness. By God's grace in Christ, repentance and faith restores our relationship with God and results in a life of ongoing transformation.

The Bible promises that Jesus Christ will return to this earth as the conquering King. Only those who live in repentant faith in Christ will escape God's judgment and live joyfully in God's presence for all eternity. God's message is the same to all of us: repent and believe, before it is too late. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe with your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you will be saved.

**Classes are currently meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.**

## Friendship Attendance, Jan 24

Small group Bible study - 40

Celebration worship - 64

## Friendship Birthdays

January 31 – Kevin King

February 2 – Barbara Wright

## Friendship Anniversaries

February 4 – Richard and Martha Guraedy

February 5 – Kevin and Kasey King

## Tithes & Offering

Sunday, Jan. 24—\$6,538.05



**Online giving is  
easier than ever!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to try out our new  
online giving service.

**Wednesday night services  
in-person at 6:30**

**LIVE  
THIS**

**Need encouragement and strength?**

**Join us Friday, Saturday,  
and Sunday evenings  
at 7 PM on Zoom**



*"Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope"*

*-John Piper*



### Doers of the Word

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* (James 1:22, ESV)

Many children know the song, "The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock." I certainly remember enjoying the motions when we sang it – especially when it was time for the foolish man's house to go **SMASH!** Jesus said that those who hear His words and **do** them are like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. His house stands firm in rains, floods, and wind. The one who hears but **does not obey** is like the foolish man who builds his house on the sand. As soon as the storms come, the house collapses (Matthew 7:24-27).

God is not pleased when we **hear** His Word but **do not obey** it. If we only **teach** our children about God's Word, but do not **train** them to actually obey it, we are not doing our job. We are not preparing them to stand firm when they experience the storms of life.

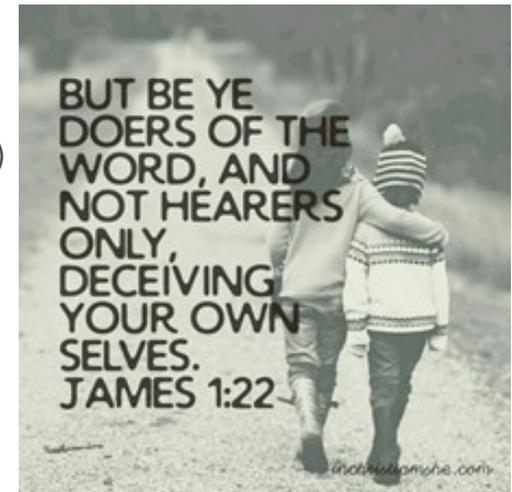
We can help our children **do** what the Bible says by **setting an example of obedience** before them and by actively training them in the midst of **real-life situations** throughout the day. Training opportunities can be addressed with questions and instruction that lead to **visible acts of repentance**.

- What did you do?
- What does the Bible say about what you did? (Read directly from Scripture to answer this question. Use a topical Bible or *For Instruction in Righteousness* to help you find appropriate verses.)
- What do you need to do differently?
- Do you need to ask forgiveness?
- Do you need to make restitution?
- What will you do the next time a situation like this occurs?
- Let's pray together. (Disciplinary measures may also need to take place at this point.)

OK, go do it and come back and tell me how it went.

*James 1:22-25 says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."*

This week in the Gospel Project lesson, we will help kids understand that we aren't accepted by God because of our obedience, we obey God out of gratitude because we are accepted by Him through Jesus. By doing what is good and right, people who trust Jesus can show that they really believe in Him.



The Church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God. Pray for us as we explore ways to help kids learn how they can love, obey, serve, and encourage those in their community.

**By doing what is good and right,  
people who trust Jesus can show  
that they really believe in Him.**

THE  
**GOSPEL**  
PROJECT  
FOR KIDS

Blessings, Mary Ann

