

FRIENDSHIP GOOD NEWS

July 24, 2020



I n d o o r C h u r c h

Sunday July 26, 2020 — 10:30 AM

From Pastor Mike...



As we are journeying through the Book of Acts on Sunday mornings, I wonder what the core values of the early church were? Acts 2:42 gives us a clue: "They (the early church) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

I'm sure these weren't exclusive of other core values, but we can clearly identify at least four here. First, they devoted themselves to the Word of God. God's Word is the truth that sets us free. Preaching and teaching were a priority and it is a key ingredient that set them apart. Remember, the Greek word "ekklesia" means "called out" or set apart. Are you devoted to discipleship and learning from God's Word?

Secondly, they were devoted to fellowship. This is why we encourage everyone to get in a small group because that is where the fellowship, connection, and "one anothers" takes place. Where are you getting your fellowship?

Thirdly, they were devoted to breaking of bread. Now, this can mean taking of the Lord's Supper or Communion, but I think it also means that they enjoyed meals together. Relationships take time to build and enjoying meals together in homes made for great relationships. Are you enjoying good Christian fellowship with others?

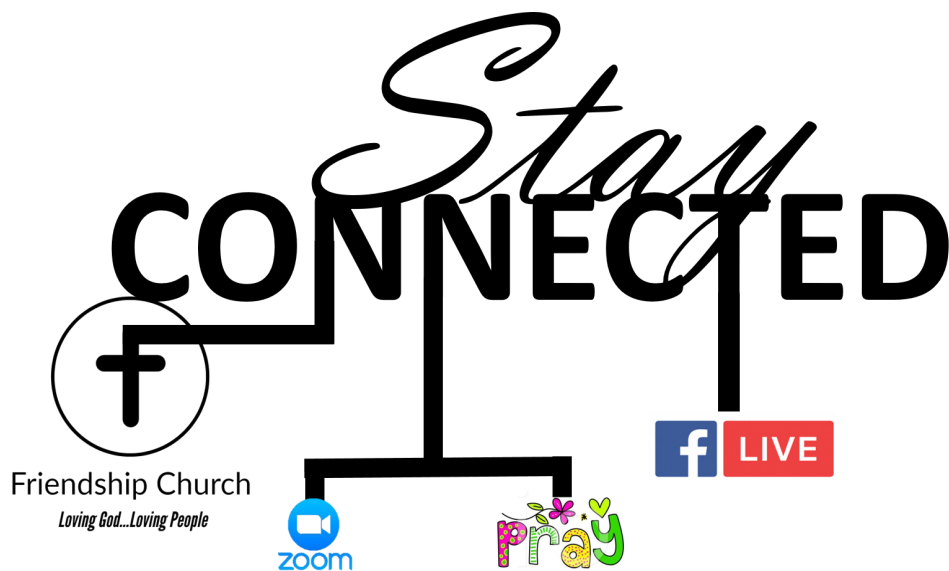
Finally, they were devoted to prayer. Prayer is like breathing – we need it to survive. If ever our country needed prayer, it is right now! We need to be praying for the lost, for each other, for our leaders, for the church...there is no shortage of things to pray for. Are you devoted to prayer with your brothers in sisters in Christ?

This is what the early church did – and the "turned the world upside down!"

Let's BE THE CHURCH!

I love you all,

Pastor Mike



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) **"Jesus Teaches About Treasure"**

How easy it is to forget that Jesus has made a way for us to sit at His feet in intimate fellowship with the Triune God in prayer. Jesus took the time to outline exactly what prayer is and how we ought to pray, giving us a model of prayer that we can adapt for ourselves. Through prayer, we are able to speak to our Father in heaven because of the Holy Spirit's and Jesus the Son's mediating work. We pray to ask Him for what we need and long for, yes, but we also pray to commune with Him. In this session, we'll discuss how Jesus taught us to pray and we'll reflect on the amazing gift of communication that prayer is for the saints.

Sunday's lesson "*Jesus Teaches About Treasure*" - [CLICK HERE](#) to download your Sunday School lesson!

Most classes meeting online using Zoom. Check with your Sunday School teacher for dates and times.

JOIN US for REVELATION STUDY

Location: Friendship Church Fellowship Hall

Day: Monday

Time : 10:30 AM

With global events signifying the end of our age, millions have begun seeking a greater understanding of Bible prophecy. The Book of Revelation, which concludes God's plan for humankind, is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible, but the Decoding the Future series now shatters the debate by presenting newly discovered ancient anthropological findings from the time of Christ that prove the events of Revelation are not only true, but can now be easily understood as a road map through the end of days.

Friendship Birthdays

July 29 – Matt Canaday

Friendship Anniversaries

July 26 – Stan & Linda Penny

July 28 – Kevin & Tina Blythe

Friendship Attendance—July 19—71

Tithes & Offering

Sunday, July 19—\$4,225.17



Online giving is easier than ever!

[CLICK HERE](#) to try out our new online giving service, Generosity By Lifeway!

Where is the sunny side of life I've always heard about? LOL The writer of Hebrews gives us a pretty good indication....the body of Christ! We're not made to fly solo through this life. Oh, we may have a special place to go for solitude from time to time, it's just not supposed to be our preference or norm. My 90 yr old neighbor used to catch me on my covered patio late in the evening enjoying the sounds of summer and a tall glass of mint tea. He thought I was crazy to sit there all alone. But I've come to realize, it can be in those quiet moments that the Lord has something special to say to us. A new plan or a new idea, ministry, or path to take. The busyness of life can certainly crowd our minds with lots of other things so we can't hear him as well.

I love to recount the people in the Bible that were aided to accomplish their task. Aaron & Hur held up Moses' arms so the Israelites could defeat an army in Exodus 17. Joshua & Caleb came back from spying out the promised land and gave a good report in Numbers 13. Mordecai encouraged Esther in chapter 6 of that interesting account in the book of Esther. Deborah assisted Barak in Judges 4, defeating Sisera's army and the two sang together in chapter 5 praising the Lord for his help. Acts 16 tells of Paul & Silas, after being beaten, singing in the Roman prison at the stroke of midnight. No pumpkin carriage for those two! Ha!

Today though, they call us the silent majority. Those who shop for bargains, pay our taxes, obey the laws,

wave our flags at the parade and rodeo, help the elderly stranger load groceries into their car, pay it forward at the drive-thru, yield to the young cyclists crossing the street. We love our pets and the dolphin show at the aquarium. The roar of the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels. Yes, we even love the red, white, and blue! Old glory herself!! Paul lived a long time ago, but for us he exhorts in Eph. 5:16-17 "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore, be not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Silent no more...the King is Coming!

For His glory,

Diane

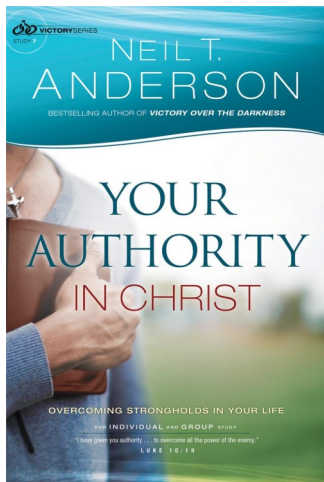


What is “The Art of Parenting?”

An 8 session, video-driven small group-group series designed to help parents and grandparents raise their children on a biblical foundation. Each session lasts 90 minutes and includes an optional (but highly recommended) \$13 workbook. This is ideal for parents, stepparents, single parents, and expectant parents who are raising children of all ages. Anyone willing to invest time and effort in their parenting approach will benefit.

To register for this event, visit <https://forms.gle/HReqKLAUrkBMuy7A8>

Meeting Location: Zoom



MEN'S STUDY

Victory Series Study 7—"Your Authority In Christ"

Session Four: Kingdom Sovereignty

Location: Friendship Church

Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

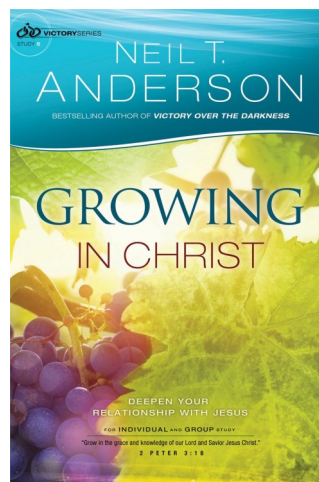
Sharpen your defense against the enemy. Satan, the author of evil and the father of lies, relentlessly attacks the children of

God. But all authority in heaven and on this earth has been given to Jesus, and at the end of time, every knee in heaven and on earth will bow to His name.

In Your Authority in Christ, Dr. Neil Anderson shows you how to exercise your authority in Christ to overcome the enemy. In this portion of the Victory Series, you will discover:

- How Satan works in this world and how he attempts to oppose to God
- How good and evil spirits operate on the earth
- How you can grasp your authority in Christ and overcome the enemy
- How to protect yourself from Satan's attacks by putting on the armor of God

Victory is assured for all those who put their faith in God.



WOMEN'S STUDY

Victory Series Study 5—"Growing In Christ"

Session Four: Overcoming Sexual Bondage

Location: Zoom

Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

In a world saturated with deceiving spirits, false prophets, and false teachers, the need for believers to exercise discernment cannot be overstated.

In Growing in Christ, Dr. Neil Anderson shows you how to deepen your relationship with Jesus by developing spiritual discernment and gifts. In this study, you will learn how to:

- Receive God's wisdom and discernment
- Use your spiritual gifts appropriately
- Grow through marital and familial relationships
- Overcome sexual bondage and chemical addiction
- Understand the truth behind why each of us suffers

This study, with six sessions can be used individually or in a group, and includes a leader's guide, along with illustrations and questions for deeper reflection and practical applications.

The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to communicate God's presence to us. When we choose to believe what God says is true, the Holy Spirit renews our minds, and we begin to understand see more clearly

NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM

-2 CORINTHIANS 3:17



Traditionally, the bottle campaign consists of filling a physical baby bottle with loose change, cash, or a check, but with the challenges of COVID-19, we have gone virtual.



Please take a moment to add your support



You can text **479-777-9663** to give

mail a check to:
3610 W Southern Hills Blvd.
Rogers, AR 72758



donate on our website
www.supportLC.org

We are only able to generously share Christ's love with women, families and babies in need with your support. Every donation is vitally needed.

Together we are Saving Babies, Changing Lives and Empowering Families.



Gospel Project for Kids

Unit 23 • Session 4

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Taught About Possessions

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- A man asked Jesus to tell his brother to share with him.
- Jesus said life is about more than what we own.
- Jesus reminded people that God takes care of birds and flowers, and people matter more than either.
- Jesus taught people not to worry because God provides for our needs.

KEY PASSAGE: John 14:25-26

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need. When we worry about what we do and do not have, it distracts us from worshiping Jesus and obeying Him out of love. Thankfully, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes the way for us to have new life, so we can put away the distractions and live for God's glory.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why is Jesus the greatest treasure?
- How can we honor God with the things we own?
- When is it hard to be generous?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Help your kids find toys or clothing in good shape. Donate the items to a local charity. Talk about how Jesus' generosity inspires our own.
- **Allow the kids to blow bubbles.** Challenge them to name a blessing God has given them for each bubble they blow. SAY: No matter how great the blessings are that God has given you, none of them will last forever—none except the eternal life Jesus provides to everyone who has faith in Him. Today, we learned more about Jesus' teachings about possessions.

Click this link for the Bible story video that goes with this lesson.

<https://curriculum.lifeway.com/#/easy-link/QTPB/7567586f-0053-44ff-9743-19245b03c2a3>

What Will School Look Like? 4 Ways to Pray

Many are anxiously wondering, “What will school look like this fall?” With all the uncertainty, here are four ways to pray for your decisions.



I sat on the couch opposite my friend as we caught up on the last few months. Each of us with a kid heading into second grade, our chatter revolved around the last semester—missed school plays, canceled field trips, and how we’ve succeeded and failed at helping our kids cope.

But one question loomed like a rain cloud. *What will school look like?*

If you have kids enrolled in traditional schooling, you’re likely having similar conversations. *Should my kids attend in*

person? Will there be recess? Will my first grader have to wear a mask? What if they open classrooms just to close them all over again?

My niece recently told me her daughter’s school district asked parents to make a decision in the next two weeks: virtual learning or return to the school building. With virus cases in her area rising and a baby at home, she and her husband are leaning toward virtual. And my social media feed is filled with parents and teachers alike weighing in on the variables in their own decision-making process.

What will school look like? Praying through the uncertainty

Both my husband and I work full-time. And I’ll admit, working-mom guilt has been at an all-time high since school let out in March (less time to play with Zoom meetings stacked back-to-back).

Homeschooling was a challenge for me. And because of my job, some of the options friends are talking about aren’t on the table for my family. Yet I still hesitate to send my children back to school.

I worry their friends’ parents will keep them home and my kids will feel alone. I worry well-intended social restrictions will be too much on my kids’ emotional well-being. Then there’s still lingering fear for their health.

And what about the loss of so many experiences? I can’t help but grieve even the smallest things: my daughter’s loss of her first homecoming dance, my son missing his first flag football game.

Compounded by personal and world events, my normally controlled anxiety has been kicked up a notch.

But I’m not alone. Even my stay-at-home mom friends worry about their capacity to keep up with toddlers *and* a middle-schooler’s learning. A homeschooling friend confided she was concerned their regular homeschool groups would be canceled, a social release her kids look forward to weekly.

No matter your schooling venue, many of us are anxiously wondering, *What will school look like?* So as we all approach decisions we didn’t know we’d be making, here are four ways to pray through the process.

How my Parents Modeled that Prayer is of Eternal Value (continued)

Pray your decisions won't be driven by fear

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).

If I let myself, there's a lot I could come up with to fear right now: loved ones' health, how my job will look this fall if the kids need to stay home, whether school restrictions will be enough ... or too much. It's overwhelming.

But making [fear-based decisions won't help my kids](#). Fear tends to breed more fear. And it clouds better judgment. Like if I really let fear have free rein, I might keep my kids locked up indoors all day to protect them from everything from scraped knees to rabid squirrels. That's not healthy. But my friend's concern over her immune-compromised child missing out on school plays and field days? That's legitimate.

I'm asking God to clear my mind from unhealthy fear as my husband and I seek what's best for our family this school year. There are a lot of unknowns.

But isn't that always true? My husband and I both need God's strength to reel that in and think clearly. Then we can come together in agreement on what school option looks right for our family.

Pray the right decisions will be made for each child

"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

One of the hardest parts of parenting is accepting the fact that I don't always know what's best for my kids. (Despite frequently singing "Mother Knows Best" from *Tangled* to my teenaged daughter.) To tell you the truth, I'm feeling a bit out of my league here with the schooling decisions.

And I'm not the only one.

A friend recently asked her homeschooling and educator friends for help in determining what would be right for her two kids. Her oldest is in all honor classes and is self-motivated enough to likely thrive in a structured classroom environment or online. Her youngest, on the other hand, has different learning needs she isn't sure will be met if he stays home. But she doesn't know how he'll handle the new social restrictions at school either.

[I recently read an article on what epidemiologists are planning for their own kids](#), and found even the health experts don't seem to agree on the right path. (Oddly, I found this comforting.) They're struggling with the same questions you and I are. And there are no easy answers.

So I'm praying I don't look at my kids—or our family's situation and needs—from a one-size-fits-all approach. Like my friend, I'm seeking guidance from other parents, teachers, and health experts. And I'm asking God, who knows my kids better than I do, to make clear the right decisions for the upcoming year.

Pray for the ones educating our children

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you" (Psalm 32:8).

When my public-school kids were suddenly homeschooled last spring, their teachers and school staff lavished love on them. A parade of their favorite teachers and school leaders flooded our neighborhood, six feet apart. They called/emailed/texted to check on their students. They scheduled daily story times and offered one-on-one tutoring. And they claimed a permanent piece of this mama's heart.

As we all wonder what school will look like for our kids, I don't want to forget kids and parents won't be the only ones adjusting to a new environment. My teacher friends are already racking their brains on ways to develop trusting relationships with their students who won't be there in person. Or how to maximize safety and learning with minimum space. Can you imagine telling 20 kindergarteners to stay six feet from their neighbor?

[Pray for teachers in your kids' schools.](#) Pray for the administrators, counselors, support staff from janitors to food service, and everyone else involved in your children's lives at school. I pray we remember to have patience with them. Because while we are determining the needs of our own kids, they are spending their summer determining the needs of many. Like us, they might not always get it right. I pray we all remember to offer each other a lot of grace.

Once you've made your decision, pray for release from anxiety

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Maybe you already know the answer to *What will school look like this fall?* But maybe you're still wrestling with the decision you made.

We can't see what's just down the road. Many schools are locking in whatever choice parents do make for their kids. (Virtual learning not working out? Can't choose in-person until the spring semester). This school year likely won't look like any of us expect. It's likely to morph and flow differently once we're all in the thick of it, and that alone can create angst.

So once you've made a decision you are confident works best for your family, pray for God to release the anxiety of that decision from your shoulders. Ask Him to help you trust your children's learning, health, and safety to Him whether you plan to hug them at drop-off in the mornings or prepare a spot for home-learning.

What will school look like this year? We just don't know. But I'm praying for you as you seek the best school options for your family.

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Lisa Lakey is a writer and editor for FamilyLife. Before joining the ministry in 2017, she was a freelance writer covering parenting and Southern culture. She and her husband, Josh, have been married since 2004. Lisa and Josh live in Benton, Arkansas, with their two children, Ella and Max.

<https://www.familylife.com/articles/topics/parenting/what-will-school-look-like-4-ways-to-pray/>

Blessings, Mary Ann

