

- CHILSON HILLS CHURCH -

CMT NEWSLETTER

The Children's Ministry Team



Sunday March 1, 2009

Volume II – Issue 3

THE CMT'S THEME FOR 2008-2009

“Beginning to Live B.I.G.”

Our Scripture verse for the year is **John 14.1**

“Believe in God, Believe also in me.”

March Overview:

March's B.I.G. Idea:

We believe that stories of Peter show us that God can use imperfect people

March's B.I.G. Theme:

Peter: The Story of a Disciple

March's Bible Verse:

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new. **2 Corinthians 5:17** (CEV) [Contemporary English Version]

Objectives:

- Children will hear stories of Jesus calling ordinary people to be His disciples.
- Children will hear that people are changed when they answer the call of Jesus.
- Children will have opportunities to respond to Jesus' call with action.
- Children will hear that when Jesus asked who people said He was, Peter responded by saying Jesus was the Messiah.
- Children will have opportunities to learn what the word *Messiah* means.
- Children will have opportunities to explore what it means when they say Jesus is the Messiah.
- Children will hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- Children will realize that they can care for others just as Jesus cared for the disciples.
- Children will hear the story of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Children will hear that Peter was unable to stay awake and pray as Jesus had asked him.
- Children will have opportunities to pray for themselves and for others.
- Children will hear that Peter denied knowing Jesus and Jesus later forgave him.
- Children will hear that when, like Peter, we make mistakes, God will forgive us.
- Children will hear that we can be faithful followers of Jesus even though we make mistakes.

March's Lessons:

March 1: Follow Me – **John 1:35-51**

March 8: You Are the Messiah – **Matthew 16:13-16**

March 15: Wash My Feet – **John 13:1-9, 12-15**

March 22: Pray With Me – **Mark 14:32-42**

March 29: Peter's Denial – **Mark 14:26-31, 66-72; John 21:15-17**

“Believe in God, Believe also in me.” (John 14.1)

PARENTS CORNER

Celebrate Each Other for Lent

For many, Lent represents a time of sacrifice, but for others Lent is often a time to celebrate the joys in your life. At the beginning of the Lenten season, place each family member's name into a bowl and draw names of the person each family member will celebrate. Then for the entire Lenten season, each family member can in quiet ways celebrate their chosen person, by doing special things for them or recognizing them for something special. On Easter morning, share with each other the names each other had drawn.

(FamiliesWithPurpose.com)

Sharing the Gospel with Your Children

by Thom Schultz

Many Christian parents face a paradox: How can some children hear the Good News of the Bible and believe, while others hear the same message and remain unaffected? While the process of faith may be miraculous, it is not entirely mysterious. Jesus explained it in His parable of the sower (**Matthew 13:1-23**). Teaching received without understanding kills the yield. Faith with shallow roots withers and dies. Distractions, worries and desires for other things choke the Word. However, one who hears the Word and understands it bears fruit.

How can we help our children receive the Word and bear fruit? Jesus' parable inspires several practical planting tips.

Focus on understanding. Many parents and teachers attempt to impart faith primarily through the transfer of Bible facts. Those seeds will not likely take root unless kids truly understand the meaning of the facts. Sunday school worksheets often use fill-in-the-blanks and word puzzles to drill children on their factual knowledge. However, unscrambling the word forgiveness in a puzzle is far less important than understanding the meaning of forgiveness. Hearing is not enough. Reading is not enough. Memorizing is not enough — unless your goal is to produce a Bible "Jeopardy" champion. Concentrate your time on helping kids really understand God's Word, its relevance today and how you apply it.

Let them experience the message. People remember and are affected by vivid experiences. When Jesus wanted His disciples to learn about servanthood, He got down on His knees and washed their feet. You can be sure those disciples never forgot that faith lesson! You can do the same with your children. For example, to help them experience the concept of grace, involve your family in giving to others without expecting anything in return. Or to encourage kind words as mentioned in [Ephesians 4:29](#), invite family members to write or draw a kind note to one another.

Use teachable moments. Typically, when your kids are enveloped in emotion-packed situations, they are the most ready to grow. When circumstances provoke feelings of fear, sadness, anger, exhilaration, awe or wonder, be prepared to help them see how God is working. When Johnny is scared may be the opportune time to teach about God's presence. Jesus took advantage of teachable moments often, such as during the storm on the lake and with those who threatened to stone the adulterous woman.

Reinforce for long-term retention. Some information we quickly forget. Other things we remember a lifetime. We can help move more of God's message into long-term memory through "interval reinforcement," review or use of the message repeatedly over time. **If the brain registers information just once, less than 10 percent of the message is likely to be remembered after 30 days. However, if there are six exposures to the information over 30 days, 90 percent of the message is likely to be retained.** If you want your kids to understand God as Creator, repeat the message frequently — when you drive through the mountains, when you witness a sunset, when you visit the zoo and when you marvel at the intricacy of the human body.

Avoid bribes. Many well-intentioned parents and teachers attempt to grow their kids' faith through the enticement of rewards. "Learn this verse and get a ribbon." "Go to Sunday school and get a cookie." It may

seem harmless, but bribing kids actually sets up a distraction. The "do this and get that" approach causes kids to focus more on the "that" than the "this." Jesus never said, "If you do unto others what you want them to do to you, you get a lollipop," or "If you feed My sheep, you get a Twinkie."

Employ delight. Your kids will learn more when they enjoy the process. Make learning about God fun! Some parents and teachers wince at this suggestion. Few people gain a love for anything that is marinated in drudgery. No one ever accused Jesus of being dull or boring. In fact, consider His first miracle: turning water into wine for the wedding at Cana. And remember how He told Peter to find cash for the temple tax — go catch a fish and pull a coin from its mouth. Delightful! So, make faith learning delightful.

Jesus concludes His parable: "The one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" ([Matthew 13:23](#)). What crop are you plotting with your kids? (Taken from [focusonthefamily.com](#))

"Believe in God, Believe also in me." (John 14.1)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL - "SIGN IN PROCESS"

Beginning today, please sign your children in for Sunday School at the Hospitality Desk in the Narthex before services. Once services begin, sign in sheets will be taken downstairs and you can sign your children out in their classrooms.

The *sign in process* is necessary to ensure your child's safety while they are with us and we hope this new process is more convenient for you. We are always interested in your feedback; please contact **Debbie Lovin (734-878-3805)** or **Jamie Swink (810-227-1327)** with your ideas, comments, and suggestions.

February 22 – March 22

Join us in the "[Creation Station](#)" (downstairs in the Children's area) at 9:30am to make your own Bean Bag Toss game! Bring a friend and come join the fun!

VBS FUNDRAISERS

Mother's Day Car Wash – Help raise money for this year's "[Vacation Bible School](#)" and put a smile on Mom's face with a sparkling clean car Sunday morning, May 10.

Can/Bottle Drive – Bring your cans and bottles to the church or turn in your bottles and bring the refund slip to the church. Pick up service also available by calling

Jennifer Balyeat (810-499-1227) or Wendy Lipke (517-552-0616). Proceeds will help make this year's Vacation Bible School the best one yet. You may leave your bottles/cans just inside the main doors under the steeple. **Thanks for your contributions – especially those not seen!**

COMING ATTRACTIONS !

- H Easter Egg Hunt – Easter Sunday morning
- H Safe Side program – May 30
- H Vacation Bible School – July 27-31

Check it Out!

Did you know that Chilson has a *“Children’s Library”* where you can check out books, videos, etc.? It is located to the right of the stairs as you enter the Children’s area, and filled with resources to help you continue your child’s faith journey after Sunday School.

This month’s featured materials include:

- H Quick Relief for Sunday School Teachers- tips for teachers and others who work with children
- H The Little Boat That Almost Sank- A companion book for the March theme: “Peter.”
- H Pennies for Jesus- Explains what happens to the money we give to church.
- H You Are Special- VHS tape- Animated story based on book by Pastor/Author “Max Lucado.”

Stop by soon or contact **Sheryl Goddard (810-229-9837)** for more information.

“Believe in God, Believe also in me.” (John 14.1)

*** HELP WANTED ***

Our nursery is in desperate need of volunteers during the 10:30am worship time. Please consider spending one hour a month with our newborns thru 3-year-old children in the nursery during either service or during the Sunday School hour. Please contact **Sue Wilson (810-599-7886)** as soon as possible to let her know of your willingness to care for God’s littlest ones!

Morning Greeters for Children Needed!

Please contact **Jamie Swink (810-227-1327)** or **Debbie Lovin (734-878-3805)** if you are able to greet children and parents before Sunday school each week in the Narthex and take attendance. A small commitment with great rewards!

“Believe in God, Believe also in me.” (John 14.1)



Bedouin Tent in the Wilderness

Since they must move with their flocks in an annual odyssey governed by the cycle of nature, the pastoral peoples of the eastern Mediterranean have necessarily always been tent-dwellers. In the wet winter months, they make their headquarters in the wilderness regions beyond the sown lands such as in the Judean Wilderness and the Negev Desert. In the dry summer months, however, the Bedouin (Arab plains people) need to find forage in the western hills and coastal plains, sometimes pitching their tents and grazing their flocks on farmers’ fields after the spring harvest season. Tent-dwelling became a way of life for pastoral groups early on as reflected in the accounts of the Biblical patriarchs (see [Genesis 12:8; 13:1–5, 12](#)).

Although apparently primitive from the outside, on the inside a Bedouin tent can be relatively cool and comfortably appointed with carpets and cushions. Normally the tent will be divided by partitions into at least two rooms, allowing women to be out of sight of male guests, as Sarah was kept out of sight by Abraham when he played host to his heavenly visitors ([Genesis 18:1, 9](#)).

“Believe in God, Believe also in me.” (John 14.1)



Angel Encounters Throughout the Scriptures

For the purposes of this study, we will limit ourselves to incidents in which individuals or groups encountered and interacted with God’s good angels, including the Angel of the Lord.

ANGEL ENCOUNTERS IN THE PENTATEUCH (Genesis—Deuteronomy)

The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses around 1400 B.C.E. [and are called the Pentateuch in Greek.] With the exception of Genesis, the Pentateuch focuses on events during Moses’ life, which spanned 120 years. Most of the reports of angel encounters in the Pentateuch are located in Genesis. Genesis is a seminal book, which describes the origins of our universe, and of humankind; it defines God’s unique relationship with the Jewish people, established by the covenant He made with Abraham. Most of the angel encounters described in Genesis have a direct or an indirect relationship to this covenant, and several of those encounters serve to establish the transmission of the covenant from **Abraham to his son, Isaac, and to Isaac’s son, Jacob**. Eight of the ten angel encounters reported in the Pentateuch probably took place within a one-hundred-year period, from around 2000 to 1900 B.C.E.

1. **Genesis 16**. Hagar was pregnant and fled from the tents of Abraham and Sarah. The text says, “**The Angel of the Lord found her,**” which may imply that He met Hagar in the guise of an ordinary traveler. The Angel of the Lord made promises concerning her son, Ishmael, and sent her back to her life as Sarah’s slave. Hagar later realized that she had “seen Him” (16:13), which again suggests the angel, appeared cloaked as an ordinary person. Only afterward did Hagar understand the encounter to have been with the Angel of the Lord Himself. Hagar returned to Sarah as commanded, and gave birth to Abraham’s son, Ishmael (16:15).

2. **Genesis 18**. The Lord, accompanied by two angels, visited Abraham. All three appeared to be ordinary men, and we must assume that the Lord took on His cloak as the “Angel of the Lord” (18:1–3). The Lord announced

that Sarah would bear Abraham’s son “about this time next year” (18:10; NIV) [New International Version Bible].

The Lord also revealed His intent to investigate Sodom (18:17–21). Abraham implored God not to destroy the innocent with the wicked, and God promised to spare the city if ten righteous persons could be found in it (18:23–33).

3. **Genesis 19**. Two of the angels who visited Abraham entered Sodom, still appearing to be ordinary travelers. Lot offered them hospitality (19:1–3). The men of the city gathered, intent on the homosexual rape of the visitors (19:4–11). The angels revealed that God had sent them to destroy Sodom and to rescue Lot and his family. Lot believed the angels, but was hesitant (19:12–15). The angels physically removed Lot and his family from Sodom (19:16); they then destroyed Sodom and four other sinful cities of the plain (19:24–25).

4. **Genesis 21**. Ishmael, about 17 years old, teased three-year-old Isaac (21:8). Sarah insisted that Abraham send Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, away. Abraham resisted, but God confirmed it as His will (21:12–13). Hagar and Ishmael wandered in the desert until their water was gone and they were dying. This time, Hagar heard the voice of the “Angel of God” calling from heaven (21:17). The Angel of God told Hagar not to fear and showed her a source of water nearby (21:19). Hagar and Ishmael were saved, and Ishmael became the father of the Arab peoples.

Next month we continue with **Genesis 22** while we consider and study God’s mysterious visitors.



