



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

June 2017

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

5 Simple Questions to ask when studying your Bible?

By Pastor Scott

When a book is as weighty and important as the Bible, it is important that we study it. But more important than studying it, is that we study it well. Because Christians inherently understand these two things, many are scared to undertake their own study of the Bible out of a fear of being led astray. As I have been trying to simplify the task of Bible Study in order to teach my children, I have found that these five questions are useful for almost any passage of Scripture.

1. What does this passage tell us about God? (His character, actions or desires)
2. What does this passage tell us about people? (Their character, actions or desires)
3. How can I pray this passage?
4. Is there a command, promise or instruction that I need to obey?
5. How does this passage help me see Christ better, understand his work or show me my need for him?

The first question helps the student of the Bible to look in the text for the things of central importance – God, God's person and God's purposes. Applying a question like this to Genesis 1-2 will yield a host of insights into the nature, character and creative wonder of God. He alone is uncreated. He has an eye for beauty. He is organized and consistent. He has a plan. He makes good things. He makes value statements – the difference between good and very good in the creative event. He is relational. And the list could go on.

The second question helps the burgeoning Bible scholar to recognize things about his person, character and so forth. Again, if we look too Genesis 1 we will find that humanity was created to be blessed, to be fruitful, to have children, to rule/steward over the works of God. We were created to be in relationship and to partner together, not to live in isolation. We were even given a choice to obey God or not. This was our original state. But when we look further into Genesis, just one chapter, we will find some very different things out about humanity, their actions and desires – like we don't believe God, we choose poorly, we have died, even though we are physically alive, and our relationships are now broken.

The third and fourth questions help us to apply the passage to our life. It is not enough to know information about the Bible, God and people, that information must affect our life. We must be changed by it. The best way to be changed is to begin by praying to the God who created us. When we ask how to pray a passage, we are seeking a way to apply what we have learned about God and ourselves. We might praise God for the character we see revealed in the Word. We might pray that God would help us to make better choices than Adam and Eve. We might ask God to help us steward the things in our possession for his benefit, or to give us more creative ability to see and remake the world as He sees it. We might ask for courage to obey any commands we have seen, or faith to believe the promises he has made. And that leads us to the need to act. Based upon what we have learned and prayed, we must ask how this can be applied to our life? Is there something God wants us to do?

Cont. on next page.

5 Simple Questions to ask when studying your Bible? Cont. from page one

But since all of Scripture testifies to Christ and is centered upon his great redemptive work, we never want to stop at the application question, for then we are tempted to believe that it is all about us. But we all know that we can never be good enough, faithful enough or worshipful enough. The final question helps to refocus all of our thoughts and hopes upon Christ. This will require us to think from a much broader perspective and to draw upon all of our Scriptural knowledge. In a study of Genesis 1, one might realize that Christ was present at the creation, or they might realize that taken in a broader perspective, Christ is the one who restores us to the state of fellowship that humanity had with God in the Garden of Eden before the fall. This final question leaves us in a position of thanks, gratitude and awe for the Savior of the world.

I hope that as you begin using these 5 questions in your own Bible reading and family devotions that you will be blessed and encouraged.

Items of Interest from May's Council Meeting

By Mike Boer

Visited with Diane Button regarding Sunday School - being flexible is key for the teachers. New Children and Worship materials are being used. We will continue to use existing materials for Sunday School. Middle School is great. Prayers: for memory verse portion to be more emphasized and for parents to review memory verse during the week. Ended with prayer time over Diane.

Building & Grounds Maintenance Committee Reported that there is a delay on removing the two trees by the old sanctuary.

Talking About God – continuing video series on Spiritual Conversations, Session # 4. Please consider attending so we can learn together about evangelism.

Church Administrative Assistant – Job offer made to Marjie Herold

Bekah's Evangelism Project – Cut back to 2.5 days. The Richards will lead food support.

Elder and Deacon lots to be drawn this Sunday – Ordination service on 5/21/2017 Elder – Faye or Jerry HOP Deacon – Lisa OPPENHUIZEN, Rockelle RUITER, and Keith SENTKOWSKI.

Northwest Hispanic Ministry Report for May 2017

By Joe Strong

"I get used to being hit" were the words of a woman I visited Monday after I had spent many hours in the jail. Every time I visit this home I walk away feeling sick. Teresa is the mother of 3 small children. Her husband abandoned her a year ago for another woman. He married Teresa just before leaving her, in order to avoid immigration proceedings. Every time he picks the kids up for visitation, one way or another he abuses her. The last time I visited the same apartment, I had to call the police and we ended up in the emergency room of the local hospital. Teresa never wants to press charges. She feels some strange loyalty to this abuser. Pray for Teresa. Pray for this abuser. Pray for those 3 kids.

Our Bridges of Hope ministry has opened another house next door to the current one. There are many men looking for Christian transitional housing where there is accountability upon leaving prison or jail. We offer support including rides, mentoring and help to find work. We are strict. The men must attend church once a week, Bible study once a week, house meetings, and self-help meetings such as NA or AA. We are also quick to demand urinalyses. Pray that God will lead the men of His choosing to this place. Pray for these men as many are starting their lives over again.

There are many nights when I wake up thinking about the many different situations so many people are in. I call out to Jesus for help. One constant petition is for wisdom. I need God's help because I become overwhelmed by the needs and events of others. I really appreciate your prayers.

"Pastor please pray for my son, Dary." I have spent a lot of time with this family whose son is now locked up in the Skagit County Jail. I have prayed with the family, prayed with this young man of 19 years and could do no more. When the judge made his decision, I told the weeping mother that God was as much in the court room today as He would have been if her son had been set free. Many a person has had life changing experiences when they go to prison. Pray for Dary.

Our fund raising dinners of April 28 and 29 were very successful. We had a good time. We thank all who came out and blessed us with your presence and presents. We depend on your prayers as well as your financial support. God is doing a great work through this ministry and many lives are being touched.

The Chains of Traditionalism

From www.pastorsylvia.com
Submitted by Ida Richards

In a moment of personal reflection I realized that the older I get, the less I like things around me to change. I enjoy thinking that I'm flexible and eager to try new things, but that's just not true.

In church I like to sit in the same place every Sunday. I get a little nervous when I can't find my favorite deodorant at the grocery store. When Husband mows the lawn, I am slightly uneasy that it's back and forth one week, diagonal the next. After weeks of looking at hair-styles in magazines and online, I always ask my beautician to cut my hair just like she did last month, the time before that, and every four to six weeks for the past five years.

The truth is, I prefer to hold tightly to my preferences, our household traditions, and even the rituals and traditions of the church. Perhaps that's why I was slightly offended when Husband came home from a meeting and insisted on reading aloud a meditation by Chuck Swindoll.

He begins with "Are you open to change? People who make a difference can be stretched, pulled, pushed, and changed. You heard it from me: traditionalism is an old dragon... so never stop fighting it."

I felt myself bristle. Husband kept reading.

"Let's be careful to identify the right opponent. It isn't tradition per se; it's traditionalism. I'm not trying to be petty, only accurate. The right kind of traditions give us deep roots—a solid network of reliable truth in a day when everything seems up for grabs.

"Among such traditions are those strong statements and principles that tie us to the mast of truth when storms of uncertainty create frightening waves of change driven by winds of doubt."

Swindoll went on to list "believing in the authority of holy scripture, knowing and loving God, bowing to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, committing ourselves to others, and becoming people of genuine encouragement," as valuable absolutes. They "keep us from feeling awash in a world of relativism and uncertainty."

He wasn't challenging the basic doctrines of Christianity. Swindoll was speaking to the entrapment of traditionalism, meaning an attitude that resists change, adaptation, or alteration.

"It's holding fast to a custom or behavior that is being blindly and forcefully maintained." (Like only mowing the lawn going back and forth, never diagonal?) "It is being suspicious of the new, up-to-date, the different. It is finding one's security, even identity, in the familiar and therefore opposing whatever threatens that."

Then he got to the point. "And if you'll allow me one more, it is substituting a legalistic system for the freedom and freshness of the Spirit—being more concerned about keeping rigid, manmade rules than being flexible, open to creativity and innovation."

Jesus repeatedly confronted the Jewish aristocracy because their adherence to their own rules and traditions had become more important than compassion and common sense. They criticized him for healing on the Sabbath. He overturned the money changers' tables because selling animals had become more important than true repentance. The High Priest condemned Jesus to death because he didn't fit their rabbinical model.

Swindoll concludes by saying, "Believe me, there are plenty of people around who feel it is their calling to tell others what to do and what to say. They are self-appointed wing-clippers who frown on new ways and put down high flight... Whoever decides to soar must first fight through the flatland fog that hangs heavy over the swamp of sameness."

Ouch.

Maybe it's time for a new hairstyle and a lawn creatively mowed in curly-Q's.

Adult Sunday School Fall 2017

By Pastor Scott



Would you like to have a say in what we study as an Adult Sunday school class? I would love to hear your thoughts. Over the past 5 years we have been engaged in a comparative worldviews study looking at theology, philosophy, ethics, biology and most recently government and law. Many of us have learned a lot from these studies, but it appears that interest may be waning. I have created a simple 6-question survey that I would love for every adult age 15 and over to complete. The questions are simple and straightforward. Would you help me to design a series that would address the questions that you would like to explore? The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZ8MQKJ>. If you are unable to complete an online survey in the next 2 weeks, but would like to give us your feedback, just call or drop by the office and we will get your input.

Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

The Deacons wish to thank Ali Laninga for her faithful service these past three years as a Deacon for Hope in Christ Church. Ali served as chair of the Deacons from June 2016 to the present. Her strong leadership skills will be missed by the team.

With the summer now upon us, we have not scheduled any upcoming events. We are open to suggestions for get togethers and would love to hear some new ideas for ways to have fellowship together.

Thankyou to Deloris Perry for all her hard work in helping and leading the Deacons to provide a breakfast for those who came to participate in the clean up of the church grounds. Deloris prepared most of the items beforehand, which saved the rest of us a lot of work.

The Deacons wish to remind everyone that if you plan to donate to the summer mission trip that Bekah is planning, you may donate through the Deacons if you wish to receive tax credit. However, you cannot designate that it is for Bekah's trip—it will have to be for the "summer mission trip." You may also donate directly to Bekah.

Giving in April 2017

	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 2,848	\$ 13,535
General Fund Offerings	\$20,287	\$ 80,743
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,243</u>	<u>9,109</u>
Total Undesignated Income	22,530	89,852
General Fund Expenses	(18,348)	(90,269)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 4,182</u>	<u>\$ (417)</u>
Total 2017 budget, including ministry quotas	\$ 222,173	
Year-to-Date Budget for 5 months	\$ 92,572	
Total Undesignated Income	<u>89,852</u>	
Income Over (Under) Budget	<u>\$ (2,720)</u>	

Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 20,000

Congregational Birthdays For June

- 1 Len VanderWoude
4 Bud Brouwer
6 Mabel Benedict
13 Jolene Skovron
13 Mattea Ruiter
18 Darlys Recker
20 Wilma Kelln
20 Amariah Ruiter
23 Kylie Thramer
27 Anne Geleyne
27 Lisa Oppenhuizen
30 Rockelle Ruiter



Everything has Become New

Dr. Christian Barnard, who performed the first heart transplant in 1967, said that his transplant patients often would say, "Thank you, doctor for taking away my old diseased heart and giving me a new one."

Christians, according to St. Paul, have become new people by the presence of Christ in their lives. "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: ... everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV).

If "everything has become new," it must include our mind, our character, our lifestyle, our outlook and, of course, our heart.



Preaching Series

- 6/4 Pentecost Service
- 6/11 Guest Pastor Don Recker
- 6/18 Guest Pastor Mitchell Senti
- 6/25 1 Kings 18:1-16 Spurring One Another On

Greeters Schedule

- 6/4 Jerry and Faye Hop
- 6/11 Bud and Lorraine Brouwer
- 6/18 Lisa Oppenhuizen and Joe Pruitt
- 6/25 Lanny and Christine Speyer

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 6/4 Megan Speyer and Christine Speyer
- 6/11 Cake will be provided.
- 6/18 Ruth Stadt and Donna Van Beek
- 6/25 Terry Vander Woude and Tena Vanderpol

Serving Assistants

- 6/4 Abee, Chantel and Caleb
- 6/11 Amber, Kylie and Maggie
- 6/18 Mattea, Faith and Zeke
- 6/25 Michal, Amariah and Grace

Prayer Room

- 6/4 Jay Kaemingk
- 6/11 Jen Roberts
- 6/18 Ev Kooistra
- 6/25 Chuck Dean

Offering Schedule

- 6/4 General Fund
- 6/11 General Fund
- 6/18 Outreach Fund
- 6/25 General Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 6/4 Lou Kooistra and Ken Wick
- 6/11 Deloris Perry and Len Vander Woude
- 6/18 Helen Bowman and Elaine Snapper
- 6/25 Bud Brouwer and Joe Pruitt

Children & Worship Schedule

None

Sunday School Observance

None

Sunday School Schedule

None

Interested in Helping?

Would you like to be included as a volunteer in one of these areas?

**We would love to have you pitch in!
Please call the church office and tell us in which area you would like serve.**

(360) 733-6177

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 am Men's Study Group All Day—set up for garage sale	2 8:00-2:00 Garage Sale	3 8:00-2:00 Garage Sale
4 9:30 Worship Service 6:00 pm TAG	5	6 6:30 pm Boer's Study Group	7 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	8 6:30 am Men's Study Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	9	10 6:00 pm Recker's Anniversary Event in Sanctuary
11 9:30 Worship Service 4:30 pm Jesus Gathering	12	13	14 7:00 pm Council Meeting	15 6:30 am Men's Study Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	16	17
18 9:30 Worship Service <i>Father's Day</i>	19	20 6:30 pm Boer's Study Group	21	22 6:30 am Men's Study Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	23 <i>Evangelism Weekend</i>	24 <i>Evangelism Weekend</i>
25 9:30 Worship Service 4:30 Roberts Group	26	27	28	29 6:30 am Men's Study Group 7:00 pm Praise Team	30	

