



# NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

*The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually*



# Emmanuel

Immanuel is a masculine Hebrew name meaning “God with us” or “God is with us.” The name Immanuel appears in the Bible three times, twice in the Old Testament book of Isaiah (7:14 and 8:8), and once in the Gospel of Matthew (1:23).

An alternate spelling of the name Immanuel is Emmanuel, which comes from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. Immanuel, spelled with an I, is the translation of the original Hebrew name into English, whereas Emmanuel, spelled with an E, is a translation of a translation (from Hebrew to Greek to English).

In the book of Isaiah, a child born in the time of King Ahaz was given the name Immanuel as a sign to the king that Judah would receive relief from attacks by Israel and Syria: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). The name Immanuel betokened the fact that God would establish His guiding and protecting presence with His people in this deliverance. A second, far-reaching implication of Isaiah’s prophecy about a child named Immanuel concerned the birth of Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah.

Seven hundred years after King Ahaz, a virgin from Nazareth named Mary was engaged to Joseph. Before they were married, an angel visited Joseph to confirm that Mary had conceived a child through the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20-21). When the child was born, they were to name Him Jesus. Matthew, understanding the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, delivers this inspired revelation: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’)” (Matthew 1:22-23).

Continued on Page 3

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**Sunday Worship Service:** 9:30 AM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs – No Youth (teens) Program at this time.

**Wednesday P.M. Service:** 7:00-8:00 PM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

No Services Wednesday December 22nd and Wednesday December 29th

**Communion December 19th**

# A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF Family,

It is hard to believe that it is already December. It feels like just yesterday was the beginning of a year. Yet we are entering into another season of Advent. Advent is all about anticipation. It is not about pretending that Jesus has not been born yet. It is about longing for His return. And as we long for Him to return again as King, we look back towards His first coming. We can reflect on what it was like for God's people to wait and anticipate the birth of Christ.

This year for Advent we are going to start a sermon series called "The Coming King." We are going to study the prophecies about Jesus in Isaiah 60-62. As I was studying and praying where to go for Advent these chapters kept coming back to my mind. These three chapters are all about the kind of king that Israel was expecting. It gives us their hopes and dreams of what their king would be. We see their expectations of what Jesus would be and how He would rule.

Looking back towards these prophecies will help us this Advent. We will get a better picture and understanding of what Christ's birth means. Jesus was not just born as a savior; He was born as a king. And we need to see what His being a king meant. Too often Christians can forget that Jesus did come as a king. He was not the kind of king that Israel expected, but He was still a king.

We are uniquely blessed to live on this side of Christ's birth. We can read these passages and all the prophecies about the Messiah with unique knowledge. We can study and learn about the prophecies that Jesus already fulfilled. But we also have a challenge. Many of the prophecies about the Messiah are still unfinished. We have a better picture than many of the prophets, but we don't yet see the whole. When we study these passages in Isaiah, we will see what we still have to look forward to. We won't be able to understand it all perfectly, but we will see what our King is like.

Part of the blessing of still anticipating the coming of Jesus means that our experience of Advent is both past and future. We can spend this season looking back towards the first coming of Jesus. But we also get to look forward. We get to anticipate the day when the King will return. That is a day we should long for with every fiber of our being.

I hope that you anticipate the King this Christmas/Advent season. Look back to His first coming and look forward to His second.

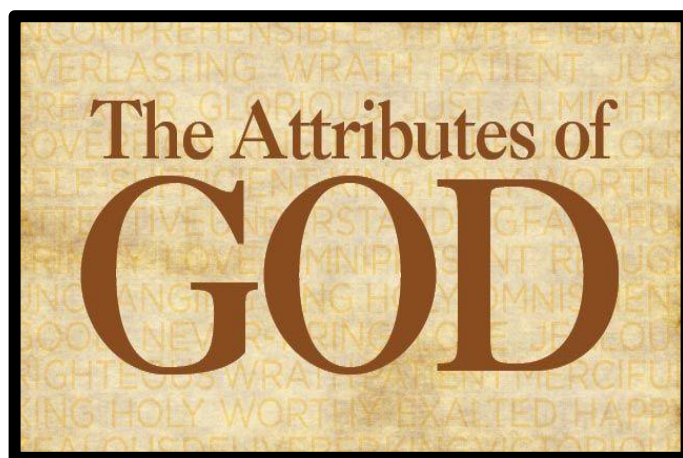


Merry Christmas,  
Pastor David

## Studies for December



**Sunday Mornings**



**Wednesday Evenings**

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy because He was literally "God with us"; He was fully human yet still fully God. Christ came to live in Israel with His people, as Isaiah had foretold. Matthew recognized Jesus as Immanuel, the living expression of the Incarnation—the miracle of the Son of God becoming a human and making His home among us so that He could reveal God to us. Jesus was God with us, manifested in human flesh (1 Timothy 3:16).

The Gospel of John beautifully describes the Incarnation: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known" (John 1:14-18).

In Jesus, God walked with us and talked with us as He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Christ's arrival showed all humanity that God is faithful to fulfill His promises. Jesus was not just a sign of God with us, like the child born in the time of Ahaz. Jesus was God with us in Person.

Jesus is Immanuel. He is not a partial revelation of God with us; Jesus is God with us in all His fullness: "For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body" (Colossians 2:9, NLT). Jesus left the glories of heaven and took on the form of a servant so that He could identify with us in our day-to-day human struggles (Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 4:15-16).

Immanuel is our Savior (1 Timothy 1:15). God sent His Son to live among us and die for us on the cross. Through Christ's shed blood, we can be reconciled to God (Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:20). When we are born of His Spirit, Christ comes to live in us (2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 2:20).

Our Immanuel will be with us forever. After His resurrection from the dead, before Jesus returned to the Father, He made this promise: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, NLT; see also Hebrews 13:5). Nothing can ever separate us from God and His love for us in Christ (Romans 8:35-39)

gotquestions.org



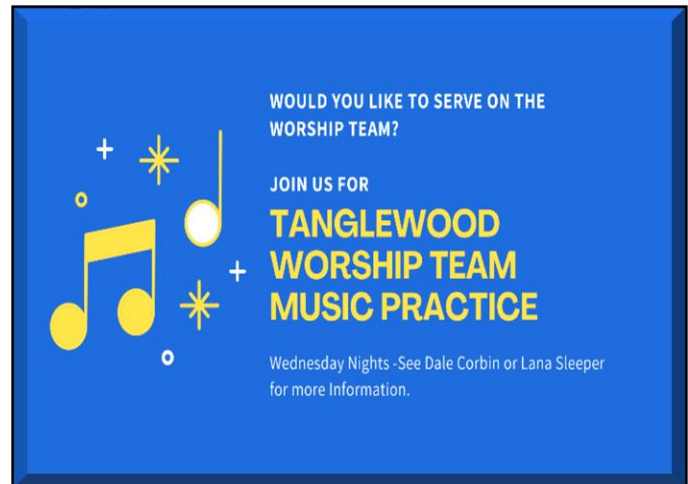
# What's Happening at TBF



EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7 PM

JOIN OUR  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
MEETING AT TBF!

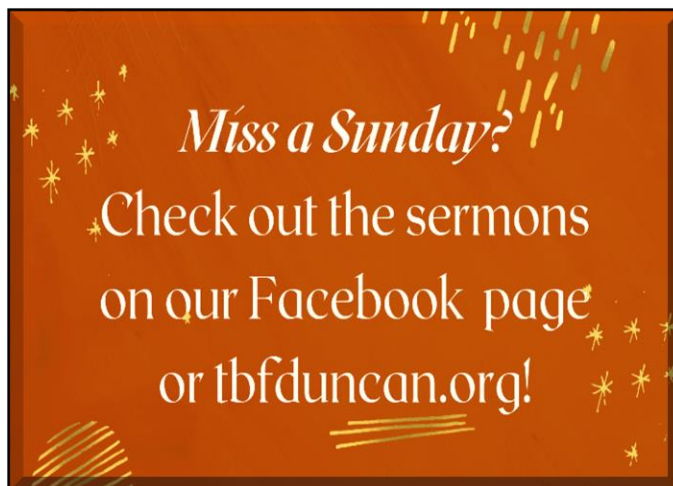
HEAR A LESSON FROM PASTOR DAVID  
ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD AND  
JOIN IN A TIME OF PRAYER & PRAISE.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON THE  
WORSHIP TEAM?

JOIN US FOR  
**TANGLEWOOD  
WORSHIP TEAM  
MUSIC PRACTICE**

Wednesday Nights - See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper  
for more Information.



*Miss a Sunday?*

Check out the sermons  
on our Facebook page  
or [tbfduncan.org](http://tbfduncan.org)!



CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR

**Daily Devos  
with  
Pastor David**

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship on Facebook

*Let's do Lunch!*

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP MEAL

*Sunday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>*

Immediately following the morning services.  
Please bring a meat dish and some sides.



# TBF Family Ministries

I wanted to use the space that I have in the newsletter over the next few months to talk about our vision statement for TBF Family ministries. This month I want to focus on our Big Picture idea, which is that: We want to be a spiritual greenhouse for families to grow. We do this already as a church with Men and Women bible studies and through expository preaching every Sunday by Pastor David. I think we also need a focus on equipping our families, helping husbands and wives grow in love for one another becoming an earthly example of Christ and the Church (Eph 5:22-33). And walking alongside parents as they train their children in the Fear of the Lord (Prov. 22:6).

Our vision statement for families is a lot, it is big, but so is our God, and so is the consequences if we do not equip our families. If we do not equip our families then the World will, and that is my biggest fear. We live in a world that is counter to God, not simply different but in direct opposition to Him. If you don't believe me watch any primetime television show and look for anything that is even slightly edifying to the Lord. If we fail our families, we are going to not only see our current generation suffer but it has a lasting impact on generations. As David has been going through Judges on Sunday mornings, I have been convicted of this truth over and over again. The beginning of Judges starts with everyone doing what was **right in God's eyes** until Joshua and the Elders had all passed then they became unfaithful to the Lord (Jdg. 2:11) and every generation they circled the drain till finally, the author of Judges says, "and they did what was **right in their own eyes**" (21:25). Israel did not start out evil; they simply made one-degree shifts each generation off course. This sent them down a trajectory that ended in a near genocide and human trafficking.

The Consequences are big, but our God is Bigger. He is the author of everything, the creator of the world, the Great I AM. He created you special and your story isn't over yet no matter how dark it seems, God is never far from His children, this is a promise that we need to hold tightly onto in our marriages, as we raise our children and as our children mature. we make plenty of mistakes some are extremely severe, and we have to deal with the consequences of these, but Jesus' blood covers the sin making us white as snow, giving us grace and the love of the Father and out of this horizontal love there can be healing in our vertical relationships, this is the Gospel!

*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

So how do we practically build a Greenhouse for families? This topic will be the subject of the next few months. But we can boil it down to two things, discipleship, and intentionality to display the Gospel in everything we do and speak.

With Love,  
Pastor Rob



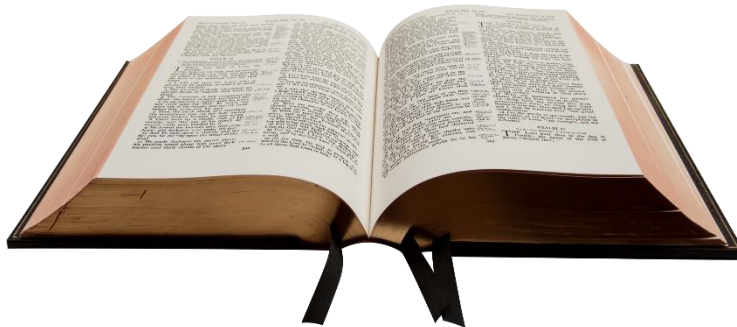


# TBF Men's Ministries



*No Men's Bible Study in  
December.*

*Watch for a new study starting in  
2022!*



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## *Kindred Community*

**Thursday, December 16th 6:00 – 8:00 PM**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**Duncan, Oklahoma**

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP on the official RSVP invitation!

# TBF *Women's Ministries*

## TBF Ladies Spring Bible Study

There will be a special kick-off event in January to promote the new spring Bible study. All TBF women and guests will be invited to attend. It will be a time of renewed sisterly fellowship with food, door prizes, and an opportunity to view the first DVD session of the new spring study. Complete details of this special event will be available in the January Newsletter.

I'M SO  
EXCITED!



"Get Out of My Head"

Bible study participants attended  
a luncheon at

*Jonny's*

Duncan, OK ~ November 18<sup>th</sup>

It was a special time of fun, great food,  
and *sisterly fellowship*.



# Sister-to-Sister

## Card Ministry

### Lifting One Another Up Through Words of Encouragement

Join me in encouraging our sisters-in-Christ by sending cards of encouragement to our fellow sisters this month. For names and addresses, please send an email to powers5rus@aol.com or text 580.736.4997 with your name and the word "sisters". Further details will be provided.

Supplies provided for active TBF women or feel free to use your own



## Folks in Heaven

by J Taylor Ludwig

Submitted by  
Janet Deeg

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I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered heaven's door,  
not by the beauty of it all nor the lights or its decor.  
But it was the folks in heaven who made me sputter and gasp –  
the thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, the trash.

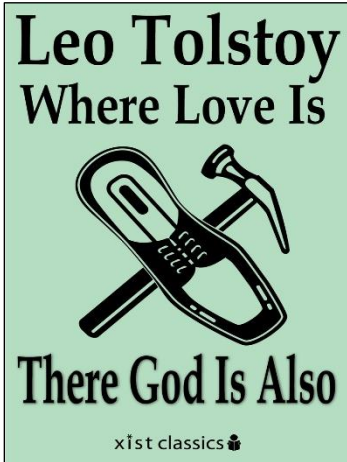
There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.  
Uncle Bill, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,  
was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal? I would love to hear your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.  
"And why's everyone so quiet, so somber – give me a clue."  
"Hush, child," said he, "they're all in shock. No one thought they would see you."



# David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them

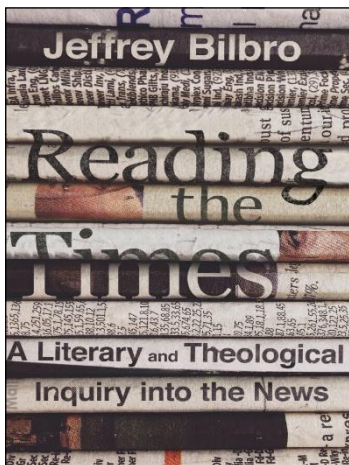
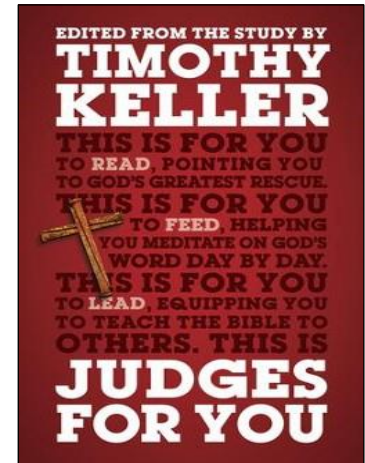


## Where Love is God is Also by Leo Tolstoy

This is a Christmas story about a cobbler named Martin who becomes a Christian and learns to care for others. The story is short, but profound and moving. It is a good reminder Christmas reminder of God's presence when we give generously to others. Tolstoy is one of my favorite authors, but many of his books can be intimidating. If you have never read anything by him, I'd encourage you to start here. That way if someone mentions War & Peace you can say you've read some of his other work.

## Judges for You by Tim Keller

If you want more from the book of Judges this book by Tim Keller can help. While technically a commentary the book is easily understood and practical. I think this entire series can be read devotionally. I've benefited from everything I've read by Keller. He manages to always get to Jesus and brings out a lot of depth from all of these stories. If you tackle this book, you'll find more in Judges that we simply didn't have time for.



## Reading the Times: A Literary and Theological Inquiry into the News by Jeffrey Bilbro

I've never read any book quite like this. It completely changed the way that I think about reading the news and being informed. The author interacted with different refrains Christians often give about reading the news in helpful and challenging ways. The book is not filled with stories and is slightly more academic. But it will challenge you to have a better theology of the "news." With how much the news impacts our political and cultural landscape I can't think of a more relevant book.



# December

2021

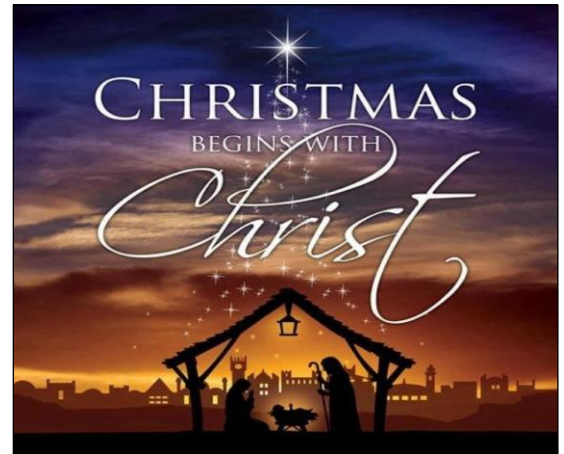
Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

## Isaiah 7:14

*Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign*

*Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son  
and shall call His name*

*Immanuel.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Service 7 PM	2	3	4
5 Service 9:30 AM	6	7	8 Service 7 PM	9	10	11
12 Service 9:30 AM <i>Let's Do Lunch!</i> <i>Church Potluck</i>	13	14	15 Service 7 PM	16	17	18
19 Service 9:30 AM *Communion	20	21	22 *No Services	23	24	25 Christmas
26 Service 9:30 AM	27	28	29 *No Services	30	31 New Year's Eve	