



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

Legion

During His time on earth, Jesus encountered many strange characters, including a demon named Legion who had possessed a man. In Mark 5:9, Jesus demanded the demon’s name, and it replied, “My name is Legion, . . . for we are many.” Legion, then, was not a solitary demon but was revealed to be a collective. The revelation potentially sheds light on why the possessed man was heavily tormented and had great strength. The people of the area had attempted to restrain him with chains, but he had torn the shackles apart (Mark 5:2-5).

Historically, a legion constituted the largest Roman military unit, often comprising thousands of soldiers. From the demon’s name, it is apparent that numerous unclean spirits can inhabit one person, a fact that underscores the difference between spiritual and non-spiritual entities. Without physical bodies, spirits can be likened to vapor, capable of occupying any space. The use of both singular and plural pronouns in the text of Mark 5 implies that a horde of demons can act cohesively, possibly for the purpose of deception. Scripture does not explicitly state the number of demons that formed Legion, but they entered a herd of around 2,000 pigs (verse 13).

Jesus’ demand for Legion’s name holds significance as it unveiled the demon’s true nature. While some posit that Jesus required the demons’ name to expel them, it is more likely that He aimed to reveal their hidden nature, asserting His authority over all of them. Names were crucial in the ancient world, even more so than today. Legion’s willingness to disclose his name underscores Jesus’ sovereignty over demons.

Additionally, it is significant that Legion has a name associated with warfare. Elsewhere, the word was used to designate groups of holy angels. When Jesus faced arrest, and Peter attempted to defend Him, Jesus said, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53). Once again, we recognize God’s sovereignty and superiority, as well as the reality of spiritual warfare.

What lessons can we draw from the encounter between Jesus and Legion? First, Scripture affirms an unseen reality beyond ours. In today’s postmodern, materialist milieu, we may lose sight of and ignore the existence of spirits. Even within Christian circles, discussions about the supernatural can be uneasy. While we should not obsess over the supernatural realm, we needn’t live like atheists. (Con’t on pg. 2)

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM
Adult Services AND Children’s (0-12 years) Programs
Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM
Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

Church Family,

Every time I finish preaching all the way through a book of the Bible, I have the same feeling. I finally feel like I am prepared to preach it. I won't make you sit through a second series on the book of Jonah, but I do hope that you read the book again. Because one of the most dangerous ways to approach the Bible is to assume that you already understand it all.

This can happen after a long Bible study or sermon series in a book. Or it can happen to some of the most well-known passages, like Psalms 23 or the story of the resurrection. We can read them so many times we begin to believe we have completely mastered them. But the challenging and wonderful truth is that you will never completely understand the Scriptures.

I think that we have to constantly remind ourselves of this fact. But how can we practically continue to learn from passages we have already learned from again and again? Let me give you a few practical ideas to help you find new insights in familiar texts.

One way is to read the passage or story in a new translation. Most of us have our favorite Bible translations, which is a good thing. But reading an old story with new words can help us see things in a new light. It might make you think harder about a detail you never noticed before. This works even better if you read the passage in several different translations that you are unfamiliar with.

Another way is to put it on paper. You can double space it and print it out. Then read it over and over marking it up and drawing all over it. Or, if you are feeling more old fashioned, write the passage out yourself by hand. It is a great way to force yourself to go slowly through each word.

The last way I'll mention is to force yourself to make 25 observations about the passage. They can be simple like "Jesus walks there," or complex like "this reminds me of God's sovereignty." Then when you finish, do 25 new ones. Force yourself to do it again and again until you write at least 100. This way is helpful because we tend to make the same observations over and over with familiar stories. This way forces you to find new ones.

The beauty of God's Word is that you will never be able to plum its depths. You can read the story a thousand times and not discover all of its secrets. Besides, no passage can be fully understood until we obey it. So, if you think you have conquered a passage, then it is probably time to look in a mirror.

Pastor David Shields

(Legion Con't from pg. 1)

Second, Christ's authority surpasses all forces, as epitomized on the cross (Colossians 2:15). Even spirits in rebellion acknowledge His supremacy. God's sovereignty is absolute, despite our inability to fully grasp how it works with the free will He gave His creation. Nevertheless, Scripture asserts both God's control and our free will.

Finally, we are enmeshed in spiritual warfare and should remain vigilant. Fortunately, we have enough weapons in our arsenal to withstand the threat (Ephesians 6:10-18).

GotQuestions.com

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: The Mystery of the Trinity
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Acts
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Jesus and Women
- ✚ COMMUNION: October 22nd
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS: Duties of Parents by JC Ryle.

TBF Men's Ministries

Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

This year we'll start to go through the book of Acts. Acts captures the joys and sorrows in the lives of first-generation Christians after Jesus ascended to heaven. The book describes the Holy Spirit's empowering of believers' intrepid mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the world.

We'll start the study with 5 lessons working through the first seven chapters of Acts. In these chapters we experience the beginning of the early Church from Jesus' instruction of His apostles before His Ascension to the day of Pentecost and the subsequent explosion of Christianity.

- Monday Sep. 11: Introduction
- Monday Oct. 02: Week 1 - Acts 1 - Preparing for Pentecost
- Monday Oct. 16: Week 2 - Acts 2 - The Day of Pentecost
- Monday Oct. 30: Week 3 - Acts 3 & 4 - Peter & John
- Monday Nov. 13: Week 4 - Acts 5:1-6:7 - Church Growth & Satan's Attacks
- Monday Dec. 04: Week 5 - Acts 6:8-7:50 - Stephen's Witness



All men are invited. Through daily Bible reading and questions, group discussion, and study notes, God's Word comes to life in new and unexpected ways. Study led by Wolfgang Deeg.

Discipleship Class

The Mystery of the Trinity

Session 3 & 4: October 8th and 24th Led by Mike Palovik

We'll be meeting in the NE classroom from 10:45 am to 11:30 am
The Nursery will be staffed on the dates we meet.

Many of us, when asked about the Trinity, unknowingly offer heretical answers. Yet a proper understanding of this doctrine is essential to the health and welfare of the church.

In this study, Dr. R.C. Sproul gives a sweeping overview of this important doctrine, explaining difficult concepts, exploring biblical teaching, and defining what the term mystery means.

TBF *Women's Ministries*

Women's Fall Bible Study: Jesus and Women



See church bulletin for times and dates.

- Session 1: In this introductory session, Kristi explains the Middle Eastern concept of understanding the Bible in contrast to the Western way we view it and unpacks the story of Jesus and the woman with the issue of blood, encouraging women to take heart because of God's care for them.
- Session 2: Kristi traces God's intention for women from the beginning, highlighting notable women mentioned in the Bible. She then explains the loss of cultural honor and significance for women in Jesus' first century world. Jesus came on the scene in the first century and began setting women back in their proper place, restoring their dignity and honor by providing justice and righteousness for each of them.
- Session 3: Kristi unpacks the John 4 story of the woman at the well, detailing the contentious history between the Jews and the Samaritans along with other social politics of the day.
- Session 4: Walking through the importance of table fellowship and hospitality in Jesus' first century world, Kristi then explains the Luke 7 story of the woman who anoints Jesus' feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair.
- Session 5: Kristi expounds on the oral teaching tradition that was so prominent in Jesus' day and explores many of the parables in Luke, showing how Jesus' use of women in His teaching was a revolutionary way of showing the world that women have a part in the kingdom of God.
- Session 6: Diving into the story of the woman caught in adultery shared in John 7, Kristi details some of the gospel parallels therein and shows Jesus' care for women in this situation.
- Session 7: In this final session, Kristi explores the stories of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the story of Mary and Martha, both kingdom adventures that God invited women to be a part of.

Women's Ministry Organizational Meeting

Women's ministry organizational team will have a meeting at the church on

Tuesday, October 10th at 11 AM.

We will be planning our holiday events and Bible study for next spring. Anyone interested in bringing new ideas or helping in any areas of our ministry, we invite you to attend.

We welcome your input and service.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy October Church Family,

For this newsletter, I wanted to finish up our deep dive into sadness with some encouragement and hope. We find that all our emotions are an aspect of our imago Dei, how we as humans reflect God's image. We see that when God decided to flood the earth, he didn't do it in anger, but his heart was filled with grief (Gen. 6:9). It is not wrong to have sorrow nor is it wrong to weep or mourn as Jesus did at the grave of Lazarus.

The Bible also does not shy away from sorrow. The Psalter is full of raw emotion including despair and sadness as in Psalm 42 and 43 which continuously ask their hearts why they are downcast, so full of despair. There are also examples of prophets like Elijah who right after the mountain experience of defeating the 450 prophets of Baal, had a Valley of despair where he asked God to kill him. Even Jonah like we have been studying on Sunday mornings experienced despair coupled with anger.

Before we dive into the promises that God gives us and hope for a brighter day, I want to touch on a cultural issue that comes up a lot when we talk about sorrow and sadness. That is what is normal? We live in a scientism culture that believes that everything is attempting to reach homeostasis. That Balance is the normal. The call for seemingly the past decade has been we all want to return to normal. But normal is never explained. We live in a constantly moving society, even just the steady tick of the clock is changing the entirety of our world, and there is no such thing as normal. In previous ages, the question was what we are living for. And the root of the question is still a part of our struggles. We as a culture want to be happy; being happy is normal, If we are not happy, then there is a problem. This is not a maintainable belief. We live in a fallen and broken world: our bodies age and break down, relationships fail, and loved ones die to just mention a few. Sorrow and despair are natural parts of our world that we have to accept. We as Christians cannot only focus on happiness. Happiness is fleeting, but hope is as eternal as the one whom you put your hope in.

The biblical truth of sorrow is real, but Jesus is able to wipe away every tear. Jesus, our great priest, lived as a man who knew sorrow and was familiar with grief (Isaiah 53:1). The Holy Spirit, when we are unable to form the words to pray, will intercede for us with groans we are unable to understand (Romans 8:26). The Father's Throne room is filled with the tears of the righteous. He keeps them and records each one in His book (Ps. 56:8). When we have grief and sorrow, we can believe that God has not left us, but the entire Trinity is close to us and never lets us go. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God has a plan for our lives; and while it will involve sorrow and hardship, it is for our good and God's glory. What you focus on will be your master. What is it that consumes your thoughts? Is it the sadness that you have or is it the hope through Jesus that all things will be made new one day? It is not that we cannot have sorrow or grieve those we have lost, but we also cannot make that thought be our master. Revelation 21 and 22 bring so much hope in suffering, even if things never get better in this lifetime. This life is just the beginning. The Lord's promise to us is eternal life in the perfect world, where there is no need for even the sun because we are in the presence of the true light, the true Son.

With the love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

Kindred Community

Chisholm Trail Church of Christ (Beech Street)

Tuesday, October 24th 6:00 – 8:00 PM

We will enjoy a wonderful meal together. We have invited our volunteer's children and grandchildren ages 6-18 to help us serve the meal! We are going to have a costume parade - and that will include children and adults. There is no pressure for our invited guests to dress up in costume, but you are welcome to if you would like to participate.

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 by September 5th - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

Pastor Appreciation Day – Sunday, October 8th

Let's join in unity and prayer giving thanks for
Senior Pastor David Shields and Family Pastor Rob Girvin

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

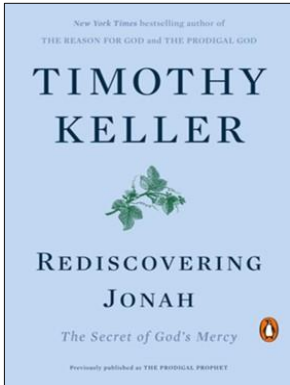
(Separate baskets will be in the foyer for cards and/or gifts. To be presented on Oct. 8th.)

MIKE DUFFY - MISSIONARY TO HOLLAND SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Mike Duffy provided a wonderful update on his ministry in Holland and the on-going work there. Despite the small percentage of Christians now living in Holland (~3%), the church continues to grow. Mike and his team are excited to have a new elder on board and are enjoying ministering to the diverse people now living in Holland.

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.



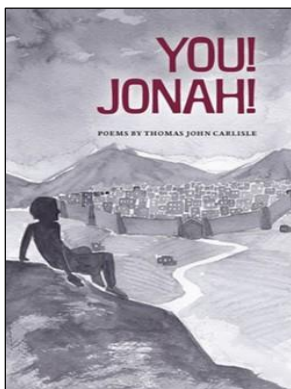
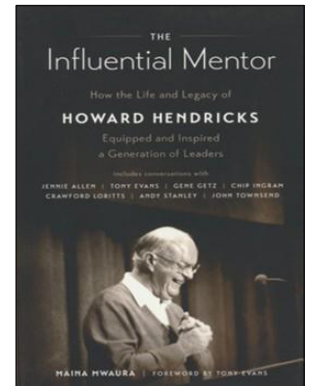
Rediscovering Jonah by Tim Keller

This book is one of Keller's best. Each chapter is adapted from a sermon he preached in the book. He preached through the book three different times over decades. Each time he returned to the same passage he found something new. His sermons are totally different than mine and each one points out another aspect of the book that we didn't touch on. The best part is how each page pointed to Jesus and exuded the gospel. I will read this one again.

The Influential Mentor: How the Life and Legacy of Howard Hendricks Shaped a Generation of Leaders by Main Maura

Hendricks taught at Dallas Theological Seminary for over 60 years. It is almost impossible to overstate his influence over the students who had him. He taught or mentored Andy Stanley, Jennie Allen, Tony Evans, Gene Getz, Robert Jeffords, and many more. He was so well known and loved that he was always referred to as "prof."

The book is less a biography and more of a reflection of the impact he had on his former students. It is filled with stories and reflections from his students, including the names listed above. I wished that the book would have been more of a biography, but I can't help but think that Prof would have preferred this version.



You! Jonah! by Thomas John Carlisle

This book was recommended to me by Pastor Rob and I am so glad that he did. It is a wonderful collection of poems and watercolors centering around Jonah. Some made me laugh but most of them made me wince in conviction. I think this is worth reading even if you don't normally read a lot of poetry, I know I don't. It will help give you a different look at the book and how Jonah must have felt.