



TRUE LIGHT

January 14, 2024

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
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ELDERS

David Burleson
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David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
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DEACONS

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*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

LEARNING TO HEAR AND EXPERIENCE JESUS

For the last forty years, my passion has focused on helping people experience Jesus daily. We all need to discover that Jesus is not just alive and interceding for us at the right hand of God, but he's also present with us now as our resurrected Lord, Savior, and friend.

Recognizing Jesus' presence and hearing his voice in our busy world and daily lives is not automatic. Sometimes, the Lord's nearness seems out of reach because of the brokenness of our world and the weariness of spirit we can feel. As a result of life's challenges, many families have asked how they can know Jesus and experience his presence in their daily lives. Others have requested that we suggest or provide reading plans to help them stay in the Scriptures each day of the year so they can better follow Jesus.

As we begin this new year, we wanted to share with our readers four key ways Jesus said we could experience his presence in our lives and provide us all a simple daily Bible reading plan to help us on our journey with the Lord, who is always with us!

...many of us have been taught that the essence of evangelism... is to invite people to come to us and learn about Jesus with us. Jesus' command, however, was to make disciples by going to them where they are...and teaching those people to obey what Jesus said.

Matthew wrote his Gospel for a variety of reasons. He roots one purpose of His Gospel in the name he alone uses for Jesus in the New Testament - it was prophesied by Isaiah (7:14). This unique name for Jesus is Immanuel, which means God with us (Matthew 1:23). For years, I read this name as simply an introduction of who Matthew wanted us to have for Jesus throughout his ministry. For Matthew, Jesus is God in human form, walking among people.

Matthew isn't the only Gospel to emphasize Jesus as God in human flesh. John also emphasizes this point with his prologue (John 1: 1-18), Thomas' confession at the end of the Gospel (*You are my Lord and my God* - John 20:28), and the seven "I Am" sayings in his Gospel (John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 10:11-14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1-5) where Jesus identifies himself with YHWH, the covenant God of Israel revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:13-15).

The evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) want us to encounter Jesus through the Lord's teaching in their Gospels as we experience how he lived, how he treated people, and what he taught as God in human flesh. Our experience of Jesus is enhanced as we practice some simple disciplines as we read their Gospels.

With these convictions, I re-read Matthew's Gospel, studying its structure in Greek and how Matthew arranged his story. I noticed that Matthew gives us four ways to experience Jesus in our lives as Jesus' disciples. Matthew shows us how Jesus will reveal himself to us as we practice them. Here are the four ways Matthew wants us to experience Jesus - and the last three are promised of Jesus to meet us in doing what is close to his heart:

Experiencing Jesus' presence in his earthly ministry through the Gospels - Matthew 1:23

As we read Jesus' story, we enter into the world of his teaching, ministry, and heart for people. This is where the reading plan below can be helpful as it focuses on experiencing Jesus' presence and listening for his voice more. More than data about Jesus, Matthew wants us to encounter him in the Gospel. Knowing the Scriptures is vital, but we don't worship them. We seek to know Jesus through those Scriptures. Matthew records Jesus as saying: *Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old* (Matthew 13:52).

John's shows Jesus making this point very clearly: [Jesus said] *You study the Scriptures diligently because you think in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life* (John 5:39-40).

Paul told Timothy that the Scriptures can make us wise to salvation, but only if our faith is focused on Jesus as the goal and center of those Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-17). Paul stressed in his letters that our goal as disciples is to be formed into a Jesus-shaped disciple (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:28-29). So, our Bible reading plans strive to help us know, experience, and be a living reminder of Jesus, our Lord, with whom we walk obediently daily. We seek to know the Jesus of the Gospels, the Lord who promises to be Immanuel to us!

Experiencing Jesus' presence by living in authentic community (family) with each other - Matthew 18:20

Many people read about two or three gathering together in Jesus' name to be what happens in church buildings. This is probably included in what Jesus meant, but it certainly isn't how the early church understood it, nor is it the context of Matthew 18. Jesus talked about this as forgoing, sacrificially, "carefronting" those who wander away, bringing them back into fellowship, and so much more.

We see this practiced in the early chapters of Acts, especially Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37). This lovingly radical community is the foundation for the many "one another" statements in the New Testament which can only be practiced in a close-knit and smaller community than a big church gathering. As we are challenged to love each other in ways that are often too hard to do on our own, Jesus promises to meet us in this loving and sacrificial fellowship!

Experiencing Jesus' presence through compassionate care to the needy - Matthew 25:40

Jesus made clear that his ministry was to seek the lost, serve the broken, and save those imprisoned by their past as prophesied in the prophets (Mark 10:45; Luke 4:14-18). This meant he got involved in messy situations, helped "undeserving" people, associated with sinners, and sought out often forgotten people. Jesus' example here is crucial for us as we seek to be Jesus' bodily presence in the world as his disciples. As we follow his example, he promises us that we will meet him in those we serve!

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 17 - Sue Jester
Larry Layton
January 18 - Mike Duley
January 20 - Sawyer Mayberry
Campbell Neely



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Hamburger Helper * Paper Towels
* 13-Gallon Trash Bags * Cream of
Chicken Soup * Shampoo or
Conditioner * Vanilla Wafers
Pick up Date: February 19

WILLING TO SERVE

January 14, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

January 21, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Attendance for January 7: 118

Contribution for January 7: \$4331

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sharon Durham met with the orthopedic surgeon and will have another appointment in three weeks * **Faye Dockins** is undergoing eye injections for macular degeneration * **Roxanne Carson** growing weaker * **Becky Johnson** * **Larry Summers, Rodney Britt, Joe Vincent** as they continue cancer treatments * **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care and has not been feeling well * **Maura Thomason** will be having an MRI on her back/hips January 22 *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Brynlee Douglas * Shirley Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

Wednesday fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.

January 20-21 - "Ignite Your Light" youth event at Jackson church of Christ with keynote speaker Spencer Furby. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

January 27 - Disciple Making Seminar at New Madrid church of Christ with speakers Donnie Ray Brown and Grant Fitzhugh from 10-2. Lunch will be provided.

Continued from front:

Experiencing Jesus' presence through going into the world to make disciples of all peoples - Matthew 28:18-20

Unfortunately, many of us have been taught that the essence of evangelism and church members is to invite people to come to you and learn about Jesus with us. Jesus' command, however, was to make disciples (not simply make a decision about Jesus) by going to them where they are (not just inviting them to visit with us) and baptizing them (not merely asking them to do something privately on their own) in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching these people to obey what Jesus said (not just know a bunch of Bible facts). As we live in this way as disciples of Jesus, he promises to be with us always and everywhere till this age ends, and we are joined with Jesus forever.

None of these four ways of experiencing Jesus is man-made or of human origin. They are rooted in the ministry and promises of Jesus. But the reward of seeking Jesus in these spiritual pursuits is that Jesus is Immanuel, God with us today, just as he was with the disciples of the first-century church! So please join me as we pursue Jesus.

The following simple Bible reading plans have been used worldwide by people seeking to know and experience Jesus. They are also used in house church planting with new believers in India, Pakistan, and Africa. The daily Bible reading plan is straightforward:

- * Before you read your chapter for that day, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you hear what Jesus is saying.
- * As you read your chapter, keep asking Jesus to use the Holy Spirit to answer three questions from your reading that day:
 - What do you want me to KNOW from today's reading?
 - How do you want me to feel about what I've read?
 - What do you want me to do in response to today's reading?
- * Once each week, get with a few other believers and share one insight from your walk with Jesus that week.

Year One: Reading through the Four Gospels each quarter

Year Two: Reading through the Four Gospels and Acts

Year Three: Reading through the Gospels and New Testament

(If you would like a printed copy of the daily reading plans, please let Amy know and she will obtain one for you)

BIBLE TRIVIA:

The Bible says that storks build their nests in what kind of trees? * How did God destroy the kings who attacked Gibeon? * In what book of the Bible does it talk about nose jewelry? * What Bible character had his thumbs and big toes cut off by the tribes of Judah and Simeon?

Answers: Pine (NIV); fir (KJV) - Psalm 104:17 * White
hailstones - Joshua 10:5,11 * Isaiah 3:21 * Adoni-Bezek
- Judges 1:3-6