

BENEATH THE SURFACE



Sermon Series

This Week's Scripture and
sermon: Luke 5: 1-11

Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin

INFORMER

Discovering God's Word Together

We are right in the middle of a four-week sermon series. This series has two main goals. First, we are looking closely at the Bible text itself. Second, I am sharing simple tips to help you read the Bible. The series is teaching us to go deeper into the Word and I'm calling it "Beneath the Surface." Each story we focus on has two things in common—they all include something under water, and they all have deeper meanings when you spend time studying.

After years of study, I sometimes forget that others are just starting their journey with God's Word. It is wonderful to see so many people opening their Bibles again.

Helpful Tips for Reading the Bible

Here are the steps and tools we have talked about so far:

- Choose a good translation: Pick a Bible translation that is easy for you to read. In our services, we regularly use the ESV, NIV, NLT, and NRSV.
- Get a study Bible: A good study Bible helps explain difficult parts. I recommend the Life Application Study Bible.
- Pray before you read: The goal is not just to read to get through it, rather the goal is to be in it and spend meaningful time with God.
- Ask questions: As you read, ask questions about what the text means. Look up the answers in your study Bible.
- Insert yourself into the story: Imagine walking in the shoes of the people in the passage.

The idea for this series came from a conversation with my neighbor. He serves on his church board, but he mentioned one afternoon that he did not own a Bible. I offered to give him one. He said, "No, I'll get one soon."

Six months later, I asked him if he found a Bible. He replied, "No, I can't figure out where to start."

I finally invited him to sit down and look at a few options together. He accepted one of my old Bibles. Last Tuesday, he and I sat down and began studying God's Word together for the very first time.

If you would like help getting to know the Bible, or if you are stuck in a reading pattern that is not working, please reach out. We are here to walk this journey together with you.

Pastor Chad

Wading in the Water

4

ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS

To stay aware and engaged read, reread, and ask questions.

5

DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP

Or if you are in the position to help, be listening for people asking for help.

6

INSERT YOURSELF INTO THE STORY

Sometimes you have to let the story be the story and insert yourself into the story to find deeper meaning

Reflections on "Beneath the Surface" sermon series

Sunday, August 23rd | 2 Kings 6:1-7 | Reflections from Meredith Brick

When I was first given the text before Sunday's service, my initial reaction was, "So what, they grabbed an axe from the water. Why is this story special?"

During the sermon, it was helpful to go line by line to comprehend the setting, people and plot. Naturally (and encouraged by Pastor Chad's pro tips) questions started to arise in my mind with each passing verse.

I am embarrassed to admit (as a former science teacher) I had the legitimate question "Does iron usually float without a miracle?"

I had a feeling it would sink, but it was a question that came up for a reason. I had to be sure of this before moving on. After quick research, I can confirm that an iron axe is more dense than water and would typically sink.

So then I started to question: "What if we are the axe?"

Pastor Chad mentioned baptism and that sparked another word in my head - buoyant.

During our Earthly lives, we are living with borrowed time. Just as the axe was "borrowed" in the water, it became buoyant once it was saved by a miracle. Our life on Earth is on rent. As we have the opportunity to be renewed in baptism, we too can become more buoyant to be saved.

Throughout the reading a couple other words stuck out to me.

In verse 2, the people decided to "build" what they needed. The universe rewards ACTION. This was a reminder to turn our words into works. God will provide, but the action to physically build whatever it is we need is our responsibility.

In verse 3, Elisha replies "I will." There is a distinct difference between "I will" and "I can".

"I can" means we have the skill to do the task. When we say "I will" it means we possess the skill AND make a promise to complete it. When we choose to respond with "I will" from a directive, it means we are choosing obedience.

So maybe I searched a little deep into these verses, but as Pastor Chad mentioned there are all kinds of people in our world reading the text - I just happen to be the curious cerebral type. We can choose to read the story and take it for face value or look deeper beneath the surface for the signs and signals.

When we know the signs, we can seek what we desire. Yes, this is a big world with lots of people. This story is a reminder that God is with each of us in ordinary, everyday moments.

We are praying for You

Mary Allee, Betty Blackwell, Shirley Brown, Dava Brummitt, Kelly Burkholder, Lisa Demoss, George Geotz, Harper Jones, Michael Lucito, Tammy Martin, Barbara Mittenburg, Pat Newport, Rowena Pettet, Joyce Whitaker, LeRoy Wimer

Our condolences to Warren and Mary Trivett on the death of Warren's father on Saturday August 22, 2026. Services will be Friday at 2pm, visitation at 1pm, All servcies at First United Methodist Thompson Site.

Nursing Home and Shut-Ins

Essex: **Dava Brummit**

E. W. Thompson: **Allan Fowler**

Primrose(Independent): **Joyce Whitaker**

Primrose(Assisted): **Dorothy Robertson, Rosalee Jordan**

Primrose(Enhanced Assisted Living): **Judy Parkhurst, Susan**

Daniels, Marion Thomas, Terry and Linda Gibbs

LeRoy Wimer, Lorene Downing

Sylvia Thompson: **Judy Steele, Margie Sowder, Lynda Alcorn, Merle**

Fisher, Donna Thompson, Margaret Johnson, Betty Blackwell

Veterans Home Warrensburg: **George Geotz**

Our friends in the Armed Services: Ryan Arnold, Tyler Bauer, Taylor Brown, Sam Braverman, Preston Butts, Daltin Butts, Kenneth French, Nicholas Holman, Adam Schock, Adriana Teiberis, Aaron Wagoner: Thank you for your service!



We now have a prayer request option on the website. It will go straight to our prayer team so they can be praying with and for you.

Those serving this Week



Elders

- Gerald Scott and Sterling Green

Candle lighters

- Jake and Jack

Deacons

- Lisa Ditzfeld
- Nita Bales
- Tyler Ditzfeld
- Kara Metzner
- Ronda McMullin
- Mendy Goss
- Austin Heubi
- Jeanean Longan
- Brian Leftridge

Nita Bales
Tyler Ditzfeld
Kara Metzner
Austin Heubi

THIS WEEKS EVENTS



THURSDAY 27

5:30pm Yoga/FH
6pm Adult Study

FRIDAY 28

7am Men's Breakfast
7pm SOLID Mini lock-in

Saturday 29

SUNDAY 30

9am Worship
10am Sunday School
11:10am Worship
7pm NA

Monday 31

6:30pm Girl Scouts

Tuesday 1

12 noon Brown Bag
1:30pm Prayer Group

Wednesday 2

7pm NA



Jim and Annie Aubrey
joined FCC on August 23.
Welcome to the FCC family!



and make disciples of all nations!
Matthew 28:19



SOLID Youth Mission:
Reaching the Youth
through CHRIST,
touching the community
with LOVE!

SOLID UPDATES:

- Sept. 9, 5:15pm SOLID resumes



Tenth Avenue North and Skillet concert

FCC SEDALIA
SOLID
SHINING OUR LIGHT IN DARKNESS
YOUTH GROUP

Shine
LIKE THE
SON

IT'S A
MINI
LOCK-IN!

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
MATTHEW 5:14

THEME: SHINE LIKE THE SON
Come dressed as someone who has helped
you shine your light for Christ.

DATE
AUGUST 28

TIME
7PM - MIDNIGHT

LOCATION
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF SEDALIA

FOOD. FUN. GAMES. WORSHIP. FRIENDS.
DON'T MISS IT!

August 28, SOLID Mini Lock-in 7pm to 12
midnight. Games, food, worship, fun and
some surprises.



Like us on Facebook at Solid-FCC Youth Sedalia

Ephesians 4:32
King James Version
32 And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God for Christ's sake hath
forgiven you.



Bible Studies

Call the church
office to sign up!
660-826-5300



Doing Life with your Adult Children

Come celebrate the joys and wrestle with the difficulties of moving from parenting your children in the home to doing life with your adult children.
Pastor Chad and Ronda will lead us in conversation.

 Aug 20th, 27th, and Sept. 3rd at 6pm

Wednesday Nights at FCC
Beginning September 9, 2026

- 5:15 PM • SOLID Youth
- 5:30 PM • FCC Kids
- 📖 6:00 PM • Adult Bible Study
- 🎵 7:00 PM • Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday

Men's Fellowship!

*Men's
Breakfast*

Start your Friday morning
off with some good food,
good fellowship, and
prayer with other men.

THE FOURTH FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH.
7AM/FELLOWSHIP HALL

FCC

Children's Ministry Right Now Media Pick of the Month SUPERBOOK!



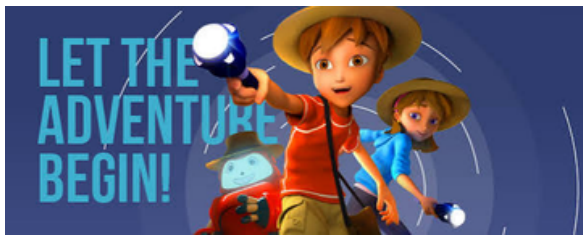
Let The Adventure Begin!

Join Chris, Joy and Gizmo as they travel through time and space to relive the greatest stories ever told!

Superbook has been broadcast in over 90 countries and translated into 48 languages. There are 26 exciting episodes and more in production!

Superbook is created by an award-winning team of artists and storytellers whose credits include Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King and Mulan.

Based on the classic series from the '80s, Superbook has been completely reimagined and reanimated for today's audiences.



RIGHT NOW MEDIA STUDIES

Here are two ways to sign-up for Right Now Media. Click the code or scan the QR code to get signed up and start exploring RNM



<https://app.righnowmedia.org/join/FirstChristianChurchMissouri>

Adult Spiritual Growth July RNM pick of the Month:

When Your Way Isn't Working



Maybe you've found recently that you are getting more irritable with people. Or you're feeling more overwhelmed and defeated by the challenges that life is throwing your way. Or you're spending more time scanning social media than you are connecting with God in prayer. Even doing things you're way isn't working out the way you think it should. If you're feeling discouraged, frustrated, and worn out, it's a good indication that something in your life is out of sync. Fortunately, there is a solution to this problem found in Scripture. In "When Your Way Isn't Working," Kyle Idleman's short series shows us how to lean more on God and less on ourselves.





We've missed you!
New semester
begins Sept. 9th
5:30-7



More info and registration here: <https://forms.gle/3fQcrP9QhNIDHByz8>



August Memory Verse:
Worship the Lord with Gladness. Come before
Him, singing with Joy!
Psalms 100:2



Calling all Women!!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF FCC
JOIN US FOR A

Watch Party

FOR THE LADIES NIGHT OF
REFLECT
= Women's Conference =
FROM ELEVATION CHURCH

 September 25th

 THE EVENING BEGINS
AT 5:30PM
and will last approximately 2 hours.

 Come with your
bible and notebook
ready to worship and
hear a word that all of
us ladies can benefit
from young or old.

 We will have
snacks and
beverages
for everyone
to enjoy.

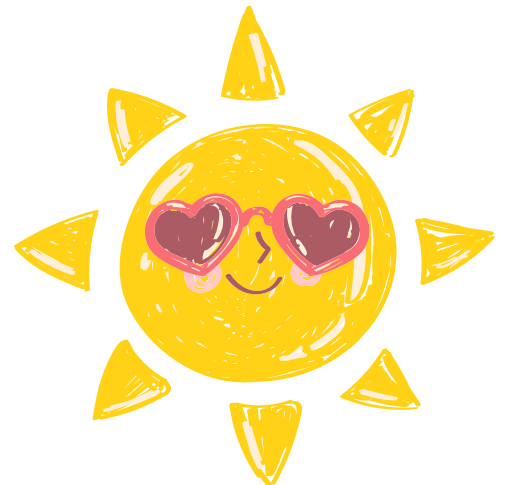
PLEASE RSVP FOR THE CONFERENCE AT
elevationchurch.org/reflect
Your RSVP helps Elevation Church prepare
for an amazing experience for everyone!

 CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
660-826-5300
we can't wait to see you there!

 Please let us know
if you plan to attend so we can be sure
and have enough goodies for everyone.

Let's worship together and be refreshed in His presence! ♥

Be still and know that I am God. PSALM 46:10



Weekly Yoga Class

Every Thursday at 5:30pm.

Fellowship Hall

Begins August 6.

The class will be led by certified yoga instructor Nikki Freeman. Bring your own mat and water as those will not be provided. Cost is \$10/pp and per class with cash, Venmo or Paypal as payment options.





Your FCC Staff

FCC FirstChristian Church

660-826-5300

Rev. Dr. Chad McMullin
Senior Minister

Rev. Chance McMullin
Associate Minister

Darrin Hartman
Traditional Worship
Leader

Amy Tilley
Contemporary Worship
Leader

Wayne Smither
Youth Director

Mendy Goss
Children's Coordinator
**Ellie Fiorino, Reese
Green, Grace Homan
and Liliya Nine**
Nursery

Sheri Webb
Admin. Asst.

Weekend Totals

August 23, 2026

9am 140

11am 140

Online 467

If you wish to check out
our Digital Bulletin while
worshipping; go to
first4god.com
scroll down to Worship Online,
click Digital Bulletin. Scripture
and list of songs will be posted.

Church information page





September Anniversaries

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2. Chris & Joel Billbury
 4. Ali & Tyler Ditzfeld, Treasure & James Green
 5. Jenny & Dan Hurley
 7. Sue & Chris Squires
 12. Susan & Michael Sadler
 13. Molly & Eric Bradley
 14. Joy & Thomas Cooper, Adam and Briara Webb
 20. Kara & Justin Metzner
Connie and Dale Soendker, Susan and Dan Nickell
 21. Amy & Eric Schneider, Linda & Jimmy Riley
 22. Alex and Amanda Foote
 29. Sherry & John Swearngin

September Birthdays

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2. Christy Goodman
 3. Amy Brust, Nate Hooton
 4. Jill Kindle
 8. Glenn Waggoner, Briara Webb, Caleb Jones
 9. Emerson Poe, Ernie Craig, David Rhoads
 11. Caleb Ehlers
 13. Shirley White, Kenleigh McAllister
 15. Grant Braverman
 17. Easton Ditzfeld, Kennedy Ditzfeld
 18. Kali Lucchesi, Aaron Sadler
 19. Carol Ahern
 20. Jacob Holman, Karter Lucchesi
 21. Camden Ditzfeld
 22. Doolie Popyk-Wyatt, Maggie Knox, Jamie Bauer
 23. Nanci Opfer
 25. Emily Gregory, Miles Curry
 26. John Swearngin
 27. Bill Curry, Jake Metzner, David Lake
 29. John Metzner
 30. Susan Nickell, Nita Bales, Carole Weese
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