

FEBRUARY 2021

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church



BETTER TOGETHER

*Lead Pastor
Kris Tarkiewicz*

We are better together than we are apart. Words similar to these were spoken during the kickoff week of our first 2021 series "Better Together-Cultivating a Biblical Community".

Throughout Scripture, Jesus, Paul, and many others have pointed us toward a devoted and centered community. The plan was never for us to walk alone as we are indeed better together.

One great example in Scripture is the community found in Acts 2. This chapter describes a community transformed by the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon them. This community was centered on the Word, prayer, fellowship and the breaking of bread.

The result of this centering resulted in a people transformed in both heart and action. They served one another and cared for one another. They had things in common and were generous meeting needs for all who had them.

These followers of Jesus grew. They grew in depth and in width. They grew closer to Jesus to each other and to the will of God.

We have a great opportunity to learn from and respond to what we witness in Acts 2 to become Better Together. Some ways we have been challenged recently include.

- Daily engage the Word
- Allow the Word to settle your heart
- Pray a Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, Pray a reflective prayer
- Be generous as God is generous
- Give something of value, give words of life, give your time

We will continue the "Better Together" series through the 14th of February. We will continue to see how we can be better together. We will also celebrate baptisms in February. God is doing a great work!

Until then may we pray and live out the words and actions found in a prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.*
-Saint Francis of Assisi



LOVE

Creative Arts Pastor

Jon Gerten

Let's continue reading in 1 John 4:9-11: *"his is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."*

God promise of love was solidified in the sending of His Son Jesus on our behalf so we may have freedom. We are not worthy of that kind of love and yet He gives it freely.

So how are we loving Him in return? Through our worship, through our family, through our work, through our very breath? Are we loving Him by keeping the command in verse 11: *we also out to love one another?*

The world sees the love of God in how we love each other in His name. Whether that is online, gathered, scattered or whatever other form we can show love. So are we displaying that gift of love that God has given us in our love toward others?

This month as we celebrate the idea of love, ask yourself that question. Don't just take God's love and do nothing with it. Let it overflow in and through you and change the hearts of those around you and show them that GOD IS LOVE!

February is a month of love. We celebrate this on Valentine's Day. I often reflect on my love for my wife and children during this time. It is also a poignant time to reflect on *our* love for Jesus and *His* love for us.

Do we realize how fortunate we are to serve a God who *chooses* to love us? It has often been said that *"we love because He first loved us"*. As a result of God's love for us, we have no other logical, emotional, spiritual choice but love Him in return. He is good!

1 John 4:7-8 remind us: *"7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."*

GOD IS LOVE. What a promise!

How do we know this promise is true for us?



Student Pastor

Nick Walker



It has been so good being back together in person this past few weeks! I've missed your students and have enjoyed getting to see many of them face to face again. We've been offering an online Zoom option for students to join from home, but in person we've been averaging close to 30 students each week! This semester we are walking through our "History of the World" series by looking at the narrative that covers all of Scripture: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration. In January we covered Creation, taking a deeper look at who God is, learning to appreciate the world He created, and ultimately understanding our purpose as humanity, His greatest creation of all, created special and unique in His image. We are called to glorify God, to multiply His image, and to care for the world He has given us. We are now moving into the Fall portion of our series by looking at the impact of sin on our world. We'd love to have you join Sundays at 6:30 in person or online!

We're excited to have some fun times together this month with a Broomball day at the Walkers' on February 6th from 12-2 and a Super Bowl Party on the 7th from 6-10 here at FBC! Hope to have your students join!



I've enjoyed being back with your students as we have entered in to our new lesson series "Heroes of the Faith". We are walking through the Old Testament looking at many men and women who did extraordinary things, living, breathing heroes from whom we can learn so much. We can seek to follow their examples and learn from both their successes and their failures as we ultimately seek to live like Jesus. This has been a great way for us to learn more about characters in Scripture, but also put God's Word into practice. So far we have covered Adam & Eve and Noah, plus a look at other minor heroes such as Abel and Enoch. What it all comes down to is the fact that God created us to be in relationship with Him and loves it when we walk with Him in holiness. That is the challenge to each one of us, to live like Jesus and make Him known as we walk in the life that He has specially purposed for each one of us. Excited to continue learning this with our students! Your student is welcome to join us Tuesdays at 6 either in person or online!

We had the opportunity to go sledding recently and that was a blast! It was fun getting to experience the outdoors together and do something different from the norm. Looking forward to doing more fun things in the coming months!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries

Director

Caye VanZandt

Sunday Update

We have re-started small groups for elementary during 2nd and 3rd service. We do ask that you help us by "saving a seat" on the church app before you come. This allows us to Pre-print your child's tags and keep our small groups evenly spaced in quantity. Sibling groups are still currently together but we are beginning to look toward the future as we think through starting up a PreK group, etc. More information with PreK to come so please keep an eye out online.

Masks:

We are currently asking all kids and leaders to keep their masks on as much as possible. The kids do get a snack (after hand sanitizer) and they get a mask break during this time.

Chelsea and I are willing to answer any questions if you want to private message us so we will do our best.

PreK:

One of big hurdles with beginning to think through re-starting PreK is volunteers. Will we have enough volunteers to staff a class? We are not sure. But we are praying to step out in faith soon to see what God may want in this area.

Policy Renewals:

If you received a notice that you need to renew this year please prioritize an upcoming meeting and let us know if you can join. This has been a big job during this time. We do not need folks to be willing to serve yet but we are praying that when we continue to open things up, we have an approved team still of volunteers who can help us with children.

We have noticed a need to communicate more in other places besides facebook. If you would like updates via e.mail please message caye@familybible.church or chelsea@familybible.church and we will add you to the e.mail list.

Nursery:

We are currently not offering nursery but are beginning to think through when and how to open nursery. If you are one who may be willing to help in this area please let us know. We are forming a list of willing volunteers before we start this area as well.

Busy Bag Donations:

We are continuing to provide busy bags for kids. Any kids can use them but they are now geared more toward PreK. A huge thanks to Judy Byam who helped us put together a special Valentine bag for upcoming weeks.

Covid Guidelines:

We are not requiring parents to sign an agreement. FYI. We just have a printout of “encouraged guidelines” in regards to Covid. This is only a guide.

Elementary Worship with Family:

We have had a lot of great comments about kids sitting with parents during worship. This is a special time for kids to watch and participate as their family worships together. Kids truly learn most from watching Mom and Dad.

Elementary aged kids (that have checked in) will be dismissed, before the sermon where they will line up into small groups and walk to children’s wing.

PreK:

We know there are lots of questions for PreK. Once the building is open we hope to begin to form a new team of volunteers and begin meeting with this team to form a plan. When the Lord provides these two things then we will open our doors to PreK kiddos.

Sunday Curriculum

We are still airing a short kids program on Sundays. Also, we are using the Orange Curriculum from Andy Stanleys church for our elementary small groups. Go to this site to find up to date material we are teaching on Sundays for PreK through 5th grade.

<http://studio252.tv/parents/this-month>

Look up the “Parent Cue App” for free up to date resources for your kids on the go! You will enter your child’s age and the app shows you the countdown for your child of how many weeks you have left till they graduate. It also has age appropriate resources to help you disciple your child.

Awana:

We are offering Awana at Home. If your child is currently ready to earn awards we just need you to communicate with us where they are and what book they are using. Then we will publicly celebrate them and get them awards. Kids can continue in their previous books and parents can sign off as their leader. It’s never to late to want to start this so just let us know. It’s a great way for families to go deeper with their kids from home this fall. Also, check out www.awanaplus.com for a ton of free resources, including a free online handbook to do with your family all together.

BIRTHDAYS

February 2021

- 1 - Eric Monaweck**
- 2 - Niko Barnett, Aubrey Tarkiewicz**
- 3 - Collin McLane**
- 4 - Barbara Osborn, Diane Peters**
- 5 - Tinley Baranowski, Emily McLane, Lucas Wray**
- 6 - Ziggy Baranowski**
- 11 - Al Byam**
- 12 - Aiden Noel, Olivia Surber**
- 13 - Madison Avery, Silas Chapman, Doug Schrader, Alex Zimmerlee**
- 14 - Kori Alcrecht**
- 15 - David Smith**
- 18 - Abigail Coleman, Colbie Leathead, Henry Monaweck, Luke Overweg**
- 19 - Christy Siebert, Sean Tindall**
- 21 - Randy Sowles**
- 22 - Hudson Coblentz, Lauren Pike**
- 23 - Kristina Craft, Kyle Weck**
- 25 - Lisa Middleton**
- 26 - Lawrence Peck**
- 27 - Morgan Brown**
- 28 - Ellory Albrecht, Kathleen Brown**