

MAY 2021

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church



HEALTHY

Lead Pastor

Kris Tarkiewicz

"I am good and I have to smile...I am in church".

I'll never forget this reply when I asked how an individual at church was doing.

My heart broke when I looked into her eyes, she did not believe her own words and she knew I did not believe her either.

Jesus told us He came to give us life and life to the full. We want to believe this to be true but we often think it is an unattainable dream.

Yet, it is possible.

Luke records "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man". Growth is a sign of health for all living things. Jesus grew in health mentally, physically, spiritually, and relationally. We have much to learn from Jesus and from the Word of God of what it means to be healthy.

Engaging our health means entering the realities we walk and live in. Often we run from emotion and pain by detaching, denying, and/or distracting ourselves from the reality. Jesus calls us into and through difficulty ministering to and meeting us there as we enter into it.

This May and June we will explore what it means to be a healthy follower of Jesus in a complicated world. The scheduled sermon topics in May include:

- May 2-Know Self to Know God: Power of Prayer
- May 9-Gentle and Lowly Jesus: A Mother's Heart
- May 16-Go Back to Go Forward: The Power of the Past
- May 23-Live in Brokenness and Vulnerability
- May 30-Embrace Grieving and Loss

As Solomon wrote encouraging health, *"...pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body."*

Life Groups

We encourage you to continue to gather, regather, join or form a life group. Groups are often the place we best connect and experience powerful growth together. Discussion questions are provided at the end of each message and can be used during the week. If you have questions about joining or forming a group please do not hesitate to contact Kris@familybible.church.

Healthy Conversations @ The UNION

You are invited to join Pastor Kris and Certified Life Coach Lori Craft at the UNION downtown Marshall (102 W. Michigan) for Healthy Conversations Tuesdays from 6:15-7:30PM. These conversations will circle around the message topics and other important topics related to health. It will be a conversation based time together. Join us and others May 4 & 18, June 1, 15, & 29.



Psalm 34:1-4 (NIV)

I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

I think there is a falsehood in our worship that we often give in to. I think we believe we need to be healthy in order to fully praise God. I want to come at it from a different angle and say it is in those times of unhealthiness that we praise God in our truest form.

When we are afflicted, beat down, tired, without hope...that is when we come with honesty before our God and Savior.

HEALTHY PRAISE

Creative Arts Pastor
Jon Gerten

Isaiah tells us:

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

For this is what the high and exalted One says –
He who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place,
But also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
To revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite.”

God is with us when we are low in spirit. He desires to fill our hearts and let us live a life free of burdens and despair. Life will catch up with us and cause these times. But it is in those times when we need to dig deep and truly surrender to God and admit our need of a Savior and admit that He is Lord and give him true and proper worship.

David did this time and time again in his lowest moments. He was far from a healthy and perfect man but he knew the need to worship God regardless of his circumstance.

We are reminded in Habakkuk of this idea as well:

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NIV)

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

It reminds me of the story of the widow with two mites in Luke 21:

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. **2** He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. **3** "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. **4** All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

She came with all she had. Even in her lowest place she knew the value of giving praise to God.

So do we worship God only out of the excess of our lives? Or we only able to worship when we are healthy and feel good enough to worship or do we come with even the fumes that are left in the tank when we feel like we are empty?

I know that I have failed at this, but I also know the value and the importance of admitting we are unhealthy and in need of a Savior. Even in that admittance we are worshiping God because we are lifting Him above us and admitting He is in control.

So this week, I encourage you to not only worship him out of the excess but also to worship Him when you don't feel like it or when you feel like you've got nothing left to give.

Why?

Because He is worthy.

Because He breathed life into you.

Because He sent His Son to give us salvation and freedom.

Because He is good.



HIGH SCHOOL
MINISTRY



Student Pastor
Nick Walker

Following Easter, we discussed at youth group how we have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. How have you been redeemed? We are called to share that story with others as we take the Gospel to all nations. We want to represent Jesus well wherever we are, whatever we're doing, knowing that we have an amazing eternity to look forward to. All things will be restored to how God intended them to be. How are you allowing God to work that in you as you make Him known in this world around you?

Come support our high school students and their summer mission trip to Jackson, MS by joining us for our Outdoor Family Movie Night on Friday, May 7th at 6:30pm here at FBC! Movie will begin at 7:00. We'll be watching Toy Story 4. This will be a fun night for all ages. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets; we'll provide the movie and snacks! There will be a bake sale and fresh popcorn available by donation. Proceeds go towards our students' trip to Jackson, MS. Also if you are looking for help around the house (yard work, spring cleaning, painting, etc.) and would like to hire the students, please let me know! We want to support our students as they raise funds for this trip that God has called them to.



**MIDDLE
SCHOOL**
MINISTRY

Our Heroes series will soon be drawing to a close. I encourage you to ask our students who/what in our series has stood out to them. We have gotten to take a deeper look at so many great men and women of God, heroes who walked with Him and made Him known. Though none of them were perfect, we have something to learn from all of them. And as we put those things into practice, we are trusting God to make us more like the Ultimate Hero: Jesus. I trust our students have not only learned a great deal about people and stories in the Bible, but have been challenged to be men and women after God's own heart.

We've had an exciting month, with our Youth Moviemakers and NERF Wars events taking place in the past few weeks. So fun to spend time together, running around doing random activities and making memories! Hope your middle school students will join us in the future on Tuesdays at 6!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministries

Director

Caye VanZandt

We have got VBS on the mind... Can you believe it? It is already that time and we are SO excited. This year we are doing a Sports & Arts Camp. Save the date July 12th - 15th. We are doing things a bit different this year, instead of a celebration picnic we will have a family movie night and VBS celebration in the evening on Friday.

The Sports and Arts camp is for children, Kindergarten through 5th grade, and will be held outside. Each day will be a different sport and art that we will focus on. Children will sign up for either Sports or Arts for the week. We will still have a preschool VBS that will be a mix of indoors and outdoors. We have some really great things planned and are excited for what God is going to do that week in the lives of the children and volunteers.

If you are interested in being a part of VBS please contact Caye or myself and check out our volunteer board in the kids lobby for more information.

Sundays have been going great. We have the youth room back for opening and worship and the children (and us too) have really enjoyed the time together in the big room. They were quickly asking for their favorite songs we used to play and a lot of them remembered the hand motions! Such a blessing to us leaders to see the children so excited and comforted by the return to the youth room.

Parents, I just want you to know, your hard work in raising your children to know Jesus and be like Him shows. It shows on Sunday mornings when they eagerly raise their hand to pray for their small group, when they recite their memory verse, when they are kind to their peers and show them God's love. This scripture comes to mind when I think of you and see you on Sundays as you check in your children:

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. - Proverbs 22:6 NLT

You are doing a great job, and it shows. It may not be easy, and gets messy at times, but you are continuing to put in the work. Keep it up! You're making an eternal difference in the lives of your children.

BIRTHDAYS

May 2021

2 - Drew Deitrich, Samuel Kiessling, Maverick Popovits

4 - Fred Chapman, Bethany Simmons

5 - Max Rutz, Rob Surber

7 - Caye VanZandt

8 - Daniel McFadden

9 - Denise Glassburn, Alyssa Kersjes

11 - Elliana Olds, Lauren Robinson

12 - Doris Locke

13 - Devin Hagaman

14 - Mary Marshall

15 - Seth Jones, Brendan Parks, Jackson Wray

17 - Cheryl Grimes, Kenyan Smith

19 - LJ Pierman (Barnett)

22 - Matt Brown, Michelle Konkle

23 - Matthew Parks

24 - Mary Fedders, Stacy Meister

25 - Jerry Avery, Salene Smith, Luke VanDorpe

26 - Elayna Moreau, Ginger Obermeyer

31 - Charles Kazmar, Eli Messner