Easter
AT FBC PALMETTO

John 8
pages
894-895

developing missionaries who
share the love of Christ
with our community & beyond
Next Steps Luncheon
Do you want to know more about FBC’s core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? Join us on Sunday, May 19 at noon for a class that will answer your questions about the heart of FBC Palmetto. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available with advanced registration. Call the church office to sign up 941-722-7795.

VBS Volunteer Training
Save the date for this summer’s VBS ‘In The Wild’ June 10-14. Volunteer training will take place Sunday, April 28 and May 19 at noon in the gym. Please contact Julee Williams at 941-722-0810 or J.R. Williams@fbcpalmetto.com for more info and to RSVP.

SERVE Saturday
Sign up today for your choice of areas for SERVE Saturday, May 4. See a SERVE host in the Rotunda or the Welcome Center after each worship service today.

Faith & Family Night
We have reserved a block of tickets for Faith and Family Night at LECOM Park in Bradenton for the Bradenton Marauders vs. Palm Beach Cardinals game. The game is on Friday, May 10 at 6:30 pm and tickets are $10. Email us at children@fbcpalmetto.com for ticket information.

Your ticket includes a free hat and souvenir soft drink. If we have 75 or more attend the game, one of our pastors will throw out the first pitch!

Beyond These Walls
Please pray the men on the Carpenters for Christ mission trip will make good progress as they build a hospital in a rural area of the Dominican Republic. Please also pray the team will serve as good witnesses for Jesus in all interactions they have with the local people. The men depart Saturday, April 27.

FBC Palmetto App
FBC Palmetto has an app for smart phone and tablet users. Download it from your app store and have instant access to the ESV Bible, prayer requests, connection cards, live stream, videos, online giving and more. You can also visit the church website at www.fbcpalmetto.com. Under the media drop-down tab you will find daily devotionals, live services, resources and weekly sermons.

Armor of God Ladies Study
A cunning enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you. Join this ladies Bible study on Thursdays at 9:30 am beginning April 25, and suit up, stand firm and secure victory in your life. Sign up for class and pay for the workbook online at fbcpalmetto.com/calendar/classes.

Outpouring
Ladies, join us Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm for the next Outpouring - an opportunity to foster relationships with other women who offer life experience, friendly advice and support. Space is limited. RSVP is required. Call the church office at 941-722-7795.
Discussion Questions

• List some ways people are not ok.

• Why do we work so hard to hide this from others?

• What are we afraid of if we're found out?

• What was the Old Testament penalty for adultery?

• Why did the men walk away after Jesus wrote in the sand?

• What did Jesus tell the woman to do after her accusers left?

• What are issues people have in life which they would like to change but can't?

• How does the resurrection of Jesus allow us to change?

One-Year Bible Reading Plan

WEEK 17

□ Day 81
Acts 10:9-48
Ps 69:7–17

□ Day 82
Acts 11
Ps 69:18–36

□ Day 83
Ps 70

□ Day 84
Acts 13:13-52
Ps 71:1–10

□ Day 85
Exodus 3:1-4:17
Ps 71:11–24
Monday
By Kenny Tibbetts

Scripture

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”

Mark 16:1-8

Pause

1. Try to put yourself in Mary's sandals. How might you have reacted?

2. What does Jesus’ empty tomb change in your life?

3. In verse seven we are reminded that Jesus foretold His death and resurrection and yet His followers were still surprised at it. What promise from God do you need to be reminded of today?

Pursue

Reach out to a friend or neighbor and invite them to one of our services this Sunday.

Pray

Thank Jesus that we have a risen Savior who rules over every inch of this world and is in control of our lives.
Since the beginning of time, mankind has shown the inclination to satisfy the flesh at the expense of obedience to God. Though we are made in the image of God, still we live in the flesh, a world smeared and broken by sin. With few exceptions, even the greatest and best of people have fallen because of our sin nature. It was a daily fight for Abraham and Sarah to live a godly life, and it is no different today.

John 8 records a woman caught in the act of sin. There’s no escape for her. Somehow the men who were with her have conveniently disappeared. But no one cares about her soul. They all want to punish her, and they would be right to condemn adultery. The Pharisees bring her to Jesus to trap Him. How could anyone defend her?

Jesus delays a response. He does not confront them. He bends down to the ground. He scribbles something in the dirt with His finger--the same finger that wrote on tables of stone at Mt Sinai. What is He doing?

Sometimes silence is more powerful than an immediate answer. Sometimes when you hear you’re own words you confront yourself. Jesus knew they needed to look inward. In humility and firm but gentle sincerity, He shines the light of truth into their own hearts. “Whoever is without sin, let him cast the first stone.” They quickly realize they are as guilty as this woman. One by one, they let go of the rocks. By throwing a rock, they would condemn themselves. They were angry at Jesus, not the woman. And they were angry that their finger pointing turned backward on them.

We are all naked and uncovered before God. We are all guilty. We are predisposed in the weakness and selfishness of our flesh to move the focus away from ourselves and point the finger at our spouse, our children, our friend, our neighbor, our enemy. Surely they have sinned. But we still need to drop the rocks.

Jesus did not condemn the woman, but neither did he overlook her sin. He called her to a new and transformed life. He gave her a chance to turn again to Him. While His authoritative reply reminds us that it is only the Lord who can judge, it reveals the true meaning of divine mercy. It leaves open the possibility for repentance. It emphasizes the great respect for the dignity of the person, which not even sin can take away. Jesus was crucified for us and is still reaching out to us with a tender hand and a loving kindness that we all deeply long for.

Read Isaiah 46.
"When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened."

Luke 24: 9-12

1. Have you ever told someone something important and they didn’t believe you? How did that make you feel?

2. Do you find yourself like Peter, having to verify for yourself, wanting more evidence?

3. Why is the empty tomb Good News?

Reach out to someone this week and invite them to come to church with you.

Thank God for the Easter miracle. Because Jesus is alive, we never have to worry about our future, His resurrection is the guarantee of our own!
Thursday – The Triumph of Joy

By David Mathis, desiring God

“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:6

The word on the street that Sunday in the Holy City was almost too good to be true. This was so unexpected, so stupendous, such a dramatic reversal of the heartbreak and devastation of the previous three days. This would take days to sink in. Weeks even. In some ways, it would take his disciples the rest of their lives to grasp the impact of this news. He has risen. Indeed, for all eternity his people still will stand in awe of the love of God on display in Christ's death, and the power of God bursting forth in his resurrection.

No one truly saw this coming, except Jesus himself. He told his disciples plainly that he would be killed, then rise again (Mark 8:31; Matthew 17:22–23; Luke 9:22). But as much as he’d done to prepare his disciples for it, a literal crucifixion was so contrary to their paradigm that they had no meaningful way to bring it into their minds and hearts. It was “a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling” (Isaiah 8:14) for the long-awaited Messiah to go out like this. His men had abandoned their master in his most critical hour, leaving him alone to carry the weight of the world’s sin. And the greatest burden of all — being forsaken by his Father. One of his own had betrayed him. The chief among his men had denied him three times. After his death, the disciples dispersed.

When news came from the women, it seemed like sheer fantasy. “These words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them” (Luke 24:11). It was beyond their imagination, but not beyond God. The initial report left them in shock. Mark tells us the women “went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid” (Mark 16:8). Astonishment seized them. First there is utter astonishment. Then comes the mingling of “fear with great joy,” and finally the freedom to rejoice and tell others (Matthew 28:8).

Easter is not an occasion to repress whatever ails you and put on a happy face. Rather, the joy of Easter speaks tenderly to the pains that plague you. Whatever loss you lament, whatever burden weighs you down, Easter says, “It will not always be this way for you. The new age has begun. Jesus has risen, and the kingdom of the Messiah is here. He has conquered death and sin and hell. He is alive and on his throne. And he is putting your enemies, all your enemies, under his feet.” Easter says that the one who has conquered death has now made it the servant of our joy.

Read the entire article at https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-triumph-of-joy.
Friday
By Kenny Tibbetts

Scripture
“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”
John 20:11-18

Pause
1. How would your faith be different if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

2. Can you picture the moment in verse 16 when Jesus personally tells Mary Magdalene that He is alive?

3. Who will you tell that Jesus is alive?

Pursue
Invite a friend or neighbor to one of our Sunday worship services.

Pray
Ask the Holy Spirit to allow you to live in light of the resurrection of Jesus, to live as if your God and Savior is living and active in this world today.
Weekend – It’s Never Too Late

By Phillip Hamm

By 1999 the Peanuts Cartoon was running in 2,600 newspapers in 75 different countries. The creator, Charles Shultz, hand drew 17,897 cartoon strips before his death at age 77. And 45 different television specials were made based on his creation.

The numbers don’t lie, the world loved Charlie Brown. And for good reason, we’ve all felt like him. It seemed everything he touched he messed up. He couldn’t kick the football, win a baseball game, or lead the Christmas pageant. And everyone in his life reminded him of what a failure he was. He had no confidence and even fewer friends. Sound familiar? We all have those seasons where we’ve felt that way. We wonder if God can do anything with the mess we’ve made.

We’re starting a new series tomorrow entitled “It’s never too late”. We’re going to peer into the life of a man named Jacob who seemed to do everything wrong. Miraculously, God was able to take the mess he made and use it for something good. In preparation for worship read Genesis 27. What’s is God going to do with your mess?

Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship Sunday morning read Psalm 148.

Pray for the World: China, Macau

Over 547,000 people live in this region of Asia consisting of a tiny peninsula and two islands west of Hong Kong and on the coast of Guangdong Province of China. Chinese and Portugese are spoken and only 5% profess to be Christian.

Macau’s reputation as a “City of Sin” is well founded; gambling revenues here surpass even those of Las Vegas and are still growing. The government regulates the industry, and local owners control a majority share with large foreign investors also present.

Pray for: a) Materialism and greed are the harvests reaped from this seed. Such an environment strangles spirituality as testified to by tiny churches. b) Gambling is a religion that takes much and gives little. Addiction and desperation are epidemics taking on a massive scale. c) Prostitution and substance abuse are natural parasites of the gambling industry. Most sex workers are trafficked in, often against their will, from the mainland or other Southeast Asian countries. d) Lucrative salaries in casinos encourage young people and Christians to seek employment there at the expense of university education or involvement in church or the community. Pray for viable work alternatives to the gambling industry.

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Deacons of the Week:
Brian Ridenour & Ed Knorps

This Week:
Sunday, April 21 Easter Services
Celebration at 8, 9:15 & 10:45 am
Encounter at 9:15 & 10:45 am
Children (birth-VPK) at 9:15 & 10:45 am
(In their Sunday School classrooms)
Kids Worship (K-5) at 9:15 & 10:45 am
(In the Upper Room)

Tuesday, April 23
7:00 pm Outpouring Ladies Study

Wednesday, April 24
5:00 pm Family Supper: Meatloaf
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Midweek Prayer
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Saturday, April 27
Carpenters for Christ depart for D. R.

Sunday, April 28
12:00 pm VBS Volunteer Training

Upcoming Events:
May 4: SERVE Saturday
May 10: Faith & Family Night at Marauders Game
May 12: Mother’s Day
May 19: Next Steps Luncheon

Children’s Volunteers
Week 4 April 28
Preschool Worship: Kane & Jessica Hannaford, Adria Henslick (e), Judy Kellar, Andrew & Rachel Marshall, Alimee McClellan, Anna Pavon, DI VanderNoord, Kate VanderNoord, Jared & Danielle Weaver (o)
Bed Babies: Lydia Armstrong, Alice McClary, Laverne Phillips, Cheryl Setsma, Grace Tripp
Kid’s Worship: Sadie & Mark Palmer

Weekly at FBC
Sundays:
8:00 am Bible Studies
8:30 am Worship Rehearsal
9:00 am Coffee in The Square
9:15 am Celebration Service
9:15 am Encounter Service
9:15 am Kids Sunday School
9:15 am Bible Studies
10:30 am Coffee in The Square
10:45 am Celebration Service
10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)
10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)
10:45 am Bible Studies
6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:
7:30 am WEE World
8:30 am Church Office
2:30 pm King’s Kids

Wednesdays:
3:00 pm Puppet Team Rehearsal
5:00 pm Family Supper
6:00 pm AWANA Clubs
6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm Bible Studies
6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:15 pm Middle School Youth
7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:
6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal
Our church exists to develop missionaries who will share the love of Christ with our community and beyond, and Serve Saturday is our opportunity to reach out and make Christ known.

On SERVE Saturday morning our church family begins the day in the gym at 7:30 am to fuel up with coffee and donuts before we pray up and send out our project teams. Service projects will leave at 8 am and finish around noon.

If you’re interested in knowing more, see a SERVE Saturday host in the Rotunda or Welcome Center after each worship service.

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Vacation Bible School

**JUNE 10-14 9 AM-12:30 PM**

Information tables are located in the Rotunda and Welcome Center after each worship service.