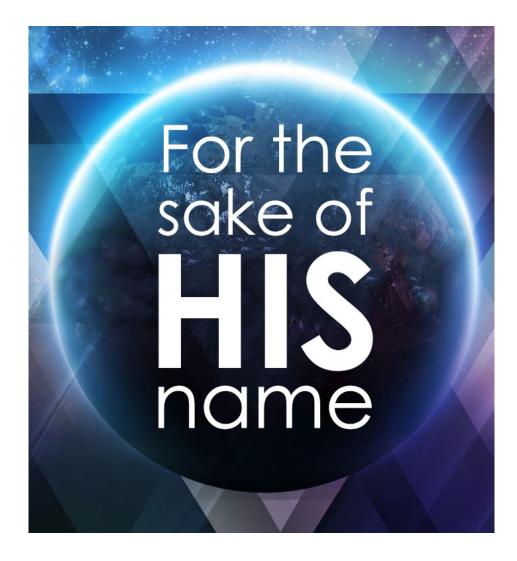
TOOLS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN 2017



LAUREL CANYON church of Christ



RESPOND · BELONG THRIVE · SHARE

409 McNaughten Road Columbus, OH 43213 614.868.1375 WWW.LCCOC.net

Our Theme for 2017

Each year we have a theme at Laurel Canyon—a point of focus which we can easily and frequently reference throughout the year to remind ourselves of what truly matters. In a congregation of this size, there are a great many "moving parts," some of which you can read about in the pages of this booklet. And yet, there is one great thread that binds everything we hope to be and accomplish in 2017 together:

For the sake of his name.

Here is just a sampling of how often our attention is drawn to this most glorious of ideals in God's written revelation to mankind:

- "The LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself." (1 Sam 12:22)
- The LORD is my shepherd ... He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psa 23:1-3)
- For you are my rock and my fortress; and **for your name's sake** you lead me and guide me. (Psa 31:3)
- Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
 deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake! (Psa 79:9)
- Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but **to your name give glory**, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! (Psa 115:1)
- Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus ... through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith **for the sake of his name** among all the nations. (Rom 1:1-5)
- I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. (1 John 2:12)
- "I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary." (Rev 2:3)

Everything we hope to be and accomplish this year is built on this glorious foundation. We exist in 2017 for the sake of his name. But what does that look like and call for, practically speaking?

Respond to the Lord

The Lord God Almighty is a solid rock on which we can build in 2017, as individuals and as a congregation. He is a fortress in which we can securely dwell. He has profoundly demonstrated his desire to lead and guide us—for our own good and for the sake of his glorious name.

Without faith, it is impossible to please him... (Heb 11:6)

Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Rom 10:17)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16-17)

In every class and assembly of worship, we aim to use the Bible in order to hear from God. But we want to do more than simply *hear*. We aim to ask ourselves, "For the sake of his name, how should I respond?"

To grow day by day in our individual relationships with God, a Bible reading calendar is made available at the beginning of each month.

- Each Sunday and Wednesday we'll read a psalm (to lift our hearts in worship and find mid-week refreshment)
- Most weekdays we'll read a chapter from the New Testament (to fix our eyes on Jesus, reminding ourselves what it means to be his disciples) and a chapter from the Old Testament (to expand our knowledge of God's great plan to save mankind)
- Each Saturday we'll read a chapter from Proverbs (to help us grow in wisdom)

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt 4:4). We will learn more of and build our lives on God's word in 2017 for the sake of his name.



Belong to His Church

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing... (Eph 1:3-4)

He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body... (Eph 1:22-23)

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Eph 2:22)

...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known... (Eph 3:10)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph 3:20-21)

He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Eph 4:11-16)

The church of Jesus Christ exists for the sake of his name. We are members of his body. He is head over all things. We are being built together into his dwelling place that his manifold wisdom might be made known. He is uniquely glorified in and through the work and worship of his church. We belong to him and he is equipping us for the work of ministry. "Church" is not simply somewhere we go on Sundays. It's who we are, for the sake of his name.

Thrive in This Family

As Christians, not only are we "fellow citizens with the saints," we are "members of the household of God" (Eph 2:19). We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are family.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others. (Phil 2:1-4)

We will be consistently reminded in every month of 2017 to be active.

- I will **pray** this month for...
- I will **show hospitality** this month to...
- I will **serve** this month by...

After each of our Sunday evening assemblies, a Care Group will meet in Classroom #8. You will hear about specific opportunities to make a real difference in the life of someone *that week*. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED for the health and growth of our Laurel Canyon family. Please plan on being an active part of this vitally important work of ministry.

Care Groups for 2017

- 1st Sundays (Last Names **A-B**) led by Mark Berry & Ed Moore
- 2nd Sundays (Last Names **C-G**) led by D. Campbell & Craig Davis
- 3rd Sundays (Last Names H-M) led by Bob Davis & Kevin Joy
- 4th Sundays (Last Names **N-Z**) led by Eric Tustin & David Pike
- 5th Sundays (Groups leaders & their wives)



Share His Grace with All

The earliest disciples of Jesus Christ received grace *from* God in order that they might *share* the message of God's grace.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt 28:19-20)

Their aim for the rest of their time on earth was "to bring about the obedience of faith" in the lives of others "for the sake of his name" (Rom 1:5). Their lives had been transformed and focused like lasers on testifying "to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)

We are being trained to think and live like our Savior, for the sake of his name. We are growing in our zeal for good works, for the sake of his name. We have been saved by the grace of God in order that we might be channels of God's grace to others, for the sake of his name.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and **give glory to your Father** who is in heaven." (Matt 5:13-16)

2017 is filled with opportunities to share God's grace with the people around us who desperately need the "good news" of Jesus.

Opportunities to Grow

- ⇒ **Assemblies of worship** on Sundays at 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM
- ⇒ **Bible classes** for people of all ages on Sundays at 9:45 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
- \Rightarrow Care Group meetings after each Sunday evening assembly
- ⇒ **Daily Bible Reading Calendars** available at the start of each month
- ⇒ **Kids Songs & Bible Drills** every 2nd Sunday of the month at 5:30 PM
- ⇒ **Singing Practice** every 4th Sunday of the month at 5:15 PM
- ⇒ Various **Bring-a-Friend opportunities** on Sunday mornings throughout the year with sermons designed to provoke serious thought in guests and lead to possible further study
- ⇒ Monthly **singings** and **devotionals for young people** hosted in various members' homes
- ⇒ March 4 (Saturday): Men's Morning-in-the-Word
- ⇒ April 1 (Saturday): Women's Morning-in-the-Word
- ⇒ April 23-26 (Sunday-Wednesday): Spring Gospel Meeting with sermons presented by Don Wright
- ⇒ June 18-23 (Sunday-Friday): Vacation Bible School lessons for adults presented by Jason Hardin
- ⇒ August 4-6 (Friday-Sunday): Youth Lectureship led by Jason Hardin & Keith Welch
- ⇒ September 16 (Saturday): Men's Morning-in-the-Word
- ⇒ October 7 (Saturday): Women's Morning-in-the-Word
- ⇒ November 5-8 (Sunday-Wednesday): Fall Gospel Meeting with sermons presented by Wilson Adams

Sunday Adult Classes

On Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM throughout 2017, adults have the opportunity to learn more about how to live **for the sake of his name**. Here's what we aim to cover in our Sunday adult classes this year.

JANUARY-MARCH: God of Promises & Covenants

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments" (Deut 7:9). This class will follow the thread of God's promises and covenants throughout the Bible in order that we might grow in our understanding of who God is, who he wants us to be, and what he is doing in the world, for the sake of his name.

APRIL-JUNE: The Beatitudes

Jesus started his most famous sermon with a variety of "Blessed are" statements in Matthew 5. What do these timeless "beatitudes" mean and how do they continue to shape our understanding of what it means to think and live like Jesus, for the sake of his name?

JULY-SEPTEMBER: "Give Us a King"

1 Samuel 8 in the Old Testament documents the period in Israel's history when they cried out for a human king, "that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." This class will use the Old and New Testaments to help us grow in our understanding of the God-defined roles and limitations of human government. How should we live as citizens in these United States of America for the sake of his name?

OCTOBER-DECEMBER: Our Citizenship in Heaven

We will conclude this series of classes by emphasizing and exploring the truth that our citizenship is ultimately in heaven, and from it we are awaiting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. What does it mean and look like to anxiously await his return, living faithfully for the sake of his name?

Wednesday Adult Classes

On Wednesdays throughout the year, adults have a choice between two classes. Here's what we aim to cover on Wednesdays in 2017.

JANUARY-JUNE:

AUDITORIUM: Genesis: The Book of Beginnings

What did God do in ancient times to establish the foundation of our salvation and identity? How does this first book of the Bible continue to shape our lives for the sake of his name?

CLASSROOM #8: Lifelong Zeal

This class aims to help Christians ignite a lasting passion for God. How can we build, maintain, and share a burning desire to please God in all aspects of life, for the sake of his name?

JULY-SEPTEMBER:

AUDITORIUM: Learning to Pray from the Psalms (1)

Nothing connects us to God like prayer and few sections of the Bible can teach us to pray like the Psalms. This class will enrich our connection to God, for the sake of his name.

CLASSROOM #8: Overcoming Sin

This class will explore the nature of specific sins, expose the danger, and teach us to overcome, for the sake of his name.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER:

AUDITORIUM: Learning to Pray from the Psalms (2)

A continuation of the study described above.

CLASSROOM #8: Blessed to Bless

This class will explore what the Bible teaches about money and our earthly resources. How can we be good stewards of our financial resources for the sake of his name?

Children's Bible Classes

The development of young hearts matters to God.

My son, do not forget my teaching,
but let your heart keep my commandments,
for length of days and years of life
and peace they will add to you.
Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.
So you will find favor and good success
in the sight of God and man. (Prov 3:1-4)

Young people *can* grow to be fantastic examples in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity (1 Tim 4:12). But they don't develop these qualities by accident. They must be taught, molded, led, and equipped to form faith of their own. Parents, teachers, and mentors must walk with them and guide them.

We take our Bible classes very seriously at Laurel Canyon. Our goal is to use God's word to shape and inscribe seven fundamental truths on the tablets of young hearts:

- 1. A grasp of the big picture of the Bible (Acts 8:30-31; 18:26)
- 2. Respect for authority (Eph 6:1; Lev 19:32; Rom 13:1; 1 Pet 5:6)
- 3. A sincere commitment to personal purity (2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 6:19-20)
- 4. Solid reasons for faith and hope (Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 3:15)

- 5. The ability to make wise choices (Prov 3:13-18; Col 4:5)
- 6. A "God-first, others-next" way of thinking (Matt 6:33; 22:36-40; Phil 2:3-4)
- 7. An authentic, developing connection with Jesus (John 15:4-5; Matt 4:4; 1 Thes 5:17)

These seven ideals from Scripture form the cornerstone of our Bible classes at all age-levels:

- Our littlest hearts (6 mths-4th grade): Shaping Hearts for God
- Our developing hearts (5-7th grades): Get Them Talking
- Our maturing hearts (8-12th grades): Making It Personal

What Do We Need From You?

- Your involvement: make the most of this opportunity by making sure your children and grandchildren are present and prepared for class.
- Your prayers for our teachers and our collective effort.
- Your willingness to contribute resources and efforts of your own for the good of our Laurel Canyon family.
- Our teachers must remember:
 - Each teaching opportunity is important, a window we won't get again (Eph 5:16).
 - You are trying to shape and save souls, not simply finish a workbook (Matt 19:14).
 - Teaching is an awesome responsibility (James 3:1), but it is one God enables us to meet, for our own good and for the sake of his name (Matt 28:19-20; Eph 4:11-16).

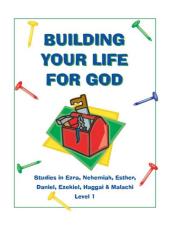
6 Months - 4th Grade Classes Shaping Hearts for God

Even the youngest of children brought to Bible class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM can be taught about God and his word. These sessions aren't about babysitting or killing time while parents and grandparents are doing something more important. These are valuable opportunities that have been carefully designed for the shaping of little hearts in what matters most.

Everything our youngest children will learn in Bible classes throughout 2017 can be summarized by three major points:

- ⇒ Jesus is coming
- ⇒ Jesus is here
- ⇒ Jesus is coming again

Children will learn a different lesson each week. Suggested Bible reading schedules are included in each workbook, along with Memory Verses and Bible Knowledge Challenges. Children can learn about God's wonderful plan, the love of Jesus, and the reason for life on this earth. We aim to help in that process.



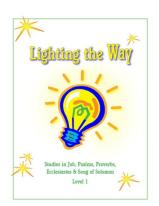
JANUARY-MARCH

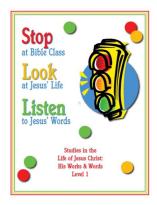
Building Your Life for God Studies in Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai & Malachi

6 Months - 4th Grade Classes Shaping Hearts for God

APRIL-JUNE

Lighting the Way Studies in Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon





JULY-SEPTEMBER

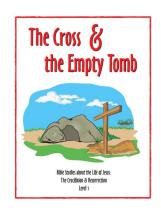
Stop, Look, Listen

Studies in the Life of Jesus:

His Works & Words

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

The Cross & the Empty Tomb Studies in the Life of Jesus: The Cross & Resurrection

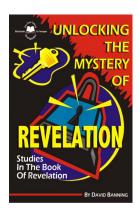


11

5th-7th Grade Classes Get Them Talking

The goal of our 5th-7th grade Bible classes is simple and straightforward: **get them talking** about God's word and how it relates to their lives. Here's our schedule for 2017.

JANUARY-MARCH

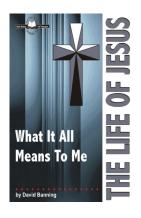


SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

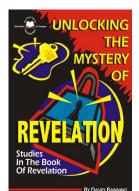
Unlocking the Mystery of Revelation (1)



The Life of Jesus:
What It All Means To Me



APRIL-JUNE

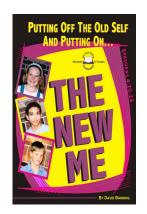


SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

Unlocking the Mystery of Revelation (2)

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

The New Me: Putting Off the Old Self and Putting On the New



5th-7th Grade Classes

Get Them Talking

JULY-SEPTEMBER

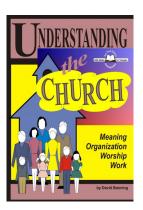


SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

The Old Testament (1): From Creation to the Conquest of Canaan

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

Understanding the Church: Meaning, Organization, Worship & Work



OCTOBER-DECEMBER



SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

The Old Testament (2): From the Judges to the Reign of Solomon

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

How Do You Know the Bible is From GOD?

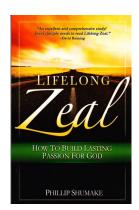


13

8th-12th Grade Classes Making It Personal

As young hearts mature, learning how to make God's word personal is absolutely pivotal. On Sundays at 9:45 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM throughout 2017, our dedicated teachers aim to show young people how the Bible applies to them now and for the rest of their lives.

JANUARY-MARCH



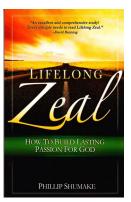
SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

Lifelong Zeal: How to Build Lasting Passion for God (1)

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)
Acts



APRIL-JUNE



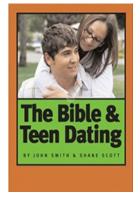
SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

Lifelong Zeal: How to Build Lasting Passion for God (2)

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

The Bible & Teen Dating

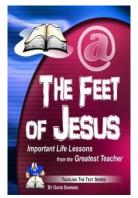
15



8th-12th Grade Classes

Making It Personal

JULY-SEPTEMBER

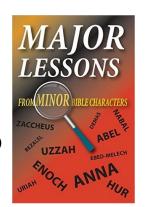


SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

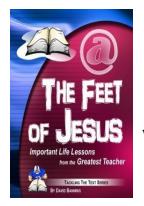
At the Feet of Jesus (1): Important Life Lessons from the Greatest Teacher

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

Major Lessons from Minor Bible Characters



OCTOBER-DECEMBER

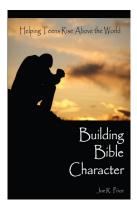


SUNDAYS (9:45 AM)

At the Feet of Jesus (2): Important Life Lessons from the Greatest Teacher

WEDNESDAYS (7:00 PM)

Building Bible Character



16

Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (1 Pet 1:20) and what our Lord has accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-three reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2017.

January

To Bear the Curse of Sin for Us (Gal 3:10-14)
8th To Fulfill the Will of His Father (Isa 53:10)

15th To Learn Obedience and Be Made Perfect (Heb 5:7-10)

To Show the Wealth of God's Love and Grace for Sinners

(Rom 5:6-8)

29th To Show His Own Love for Us (Eph 5:1-2)

February

5th To Cancel the Record of Debt Against Us (Col 2:13-15)

12th To Become a Ransom for Sinners (1 Tim 2:5-6)

19th For the Forgiveness of Our Sins (Eph 1:7-10)

26th To Provide the Basis for Our Justification (Rom 5:9-11)

March

5th So That We Might Be Made Righteous (Rom 5:18-19)

12th So That There Might Be No Condemnation For Those Who Are In Him (Rom 8:1, 34)

19th To Make Us Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach (Col 1:21-23)

26th To Purify Our Consciences (Heb 9:13-14)

"Do this in remembrance of me."

April

2nd To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good (Rom 8:31-32)

 9^{th} To Bear Our Griefs and Carry Our Sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-4)

16th That By His Wounds We Might Be Healed (Isaiah 53:5)

23rd That We Might Not Perish But Have Eternal Life (John 3:16)

30th To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age (Galatians 1:3-5)

May

7th To Reconcile Us to God (2 Cor 5:17-20)

14th To Bring Us to God (1 Pet 3:18)

21st So That We Might Belong to Him (Rom 7:4)

28th To Give Us Access to the Holy Places (Heb 10:19-22)

June

4th To Become the Place Where We Meet God (John 2:18-21)

11th To Replace the Old Testament Priesthood (Heb 9:15-24)

18th To Become the Eternal High Priest (Heb 7:23-27)

25th To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

July

2nd To Free Us From Our Futile Ways (1 Pet 1:17-19)

9th To Free Us from the Slavery of Our Sins (Rev 1:4-6)

16th That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness (1 Pet 2:24)

23rd To Enable Us to Live for Jesus and Not Ourselves (2 Cor 5:14-15)

30th To Make His Cross the Ground of Our Boasting (Gal 6:14)



Reflections for the Lord's Supper

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus instituted a memorial of his death. Following the pattern of the earliest Christians, we share in this observance every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). To help prepare our minds in appreciation for what our Father planned from before the foundation of the world (1 Pet 1:20) and what our Lord has accomplished on the cross, here are fifty-three reasons why Jesus came to die, one for each Lord's day of 2017.

August

6th To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him (Gal 2:20)

13th To Create a People Passionate for Good Works (Tit 2:11-14)

20th To Call Us to Follow His Example of Humility (Phil 2:5-8)

27th To Create a Band of Crucified Followers (Luke 9:23-25)

September

3rd To Free Us From the Fear of Death (Heb 2:14-15)

10th So That We Would Be with Him After Death (1 Thes 5:9-11)

17th To Secure Our Resurrection From the Dead (Rom 8:9-11)

24th To Destroy the Works of the Devil (1 John 3:7-8)

"This is my body, which is given for you."



October

1st To Unleash the Power of the Gospel (1 Cor 1:18)

8th To Gain His Joy and Ours (Heb 12:1-2)

15th So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor (Heb 2:9)

To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good (Acts 4:23-28)

29th To Serve as a Fragrant Offering to God (Eph 5:1-2)

November

5th To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy (1 Pet 1:10-12)

12th To Serve as Our Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:6-8)

19th To Fulfill the Charge of His Heavenly Father (John 10:17-18)

26th To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning (Eph 5:25-32)

December

To Create in Himself One New Man in Place of Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:11-16)

10th To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation (Rev 5:9-10)

17th To Rescue Us from the Fear of Judgment (Heb 9:27-28)

24th That We Might Regularly Examine Ourselves and Remember Him (1 Cor 11:23-28)

31st That We Might Participate in the Body and Blood of Christ (1 Cor 10:14-16)



"This is my blood of the covenant."

RESPOND to the Lord

For the sake of name

BELONG to His Church

SHARE
His Grace
with All

THRIVE in This Family