



concordance or online tool to locate all the places the word is used in the Bible to enrich your understanding of it. You could take a Bible that includes footnotes showing where quoted passages come from, or where similar passages can be located, and look up every one of those in the section you are studying. Once you have garnered your own insights, then you might want to take the time to read what others have seen in the passage by looking it up in commentaries or sermon collections.

Bible study in a group is another level that should not be neglected. In a group, not only will others benefit from your insights, you will learn from theirs. And if your understanding is off track a bit, their comments might serve as a good corrective, showing you something you had never known. Proverbs 27:17 tells us that just as iron sharpens iron, so we sharpen one another's understandings. That doesn't happen when you aren't involved in studying with others.



John C. Fremont Days is such a special time of year! We love connecting with our community—handing out books and Bibles, sharing God's love, and serving up HOTDOGS! Thank you for your generous donations, prayers, and support. We couldn't do it without you! See You Next Year!



PASTOR'S NOTES



And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. --Galatians 6:9-10 (ESV)

A recent devotional reading really struck me, because it was just another illustration of how God works amazing things in simple ways. Let me share it with you....it is from the 2020 Guideposts entry for June 3, by Julie Garmon:

"...Last summer, our leader suggested that from June through August we forgo our indoor prayer meetings and have prayer walks in a nearby communities.

Seven of us met on a June afternoon. A friend suggested we circle the police station seven times, just as the Israelites had circled the walls of Jericho. 'If we spot any officers, let's ask if they have prayer requests,' she said.

Won't that be intrusive? They probably don't have time for nonemergency-type questions. What if they don't believe in prayer?

Sure enough, on our first lap around the building, two officers headed toward their patrol car. My bold friend approached them and explained what we were doing. She asked if they had prayer requests.

'Yes, ma'am,' one said. 'We have financial needs. Marital struggles. There's unrest in our community. Officers are entering dangerous situations.'

'We're not the only ones who need prayer,' his partner said. 'Pray for the people we're arresting. So much is going wrong in their lives.'

'Pray for peace,' the other added. 'Wisdom. Discernment. God's mercy.'

Oh, me of little faith. Their honesty melted all my doubts.

Before we said our goodbyes, our leader told the officers we'd be lifting their requests to God aloud as we walked around the police



station. Beaming, they shook our hands with gratitude. Off we went.
During our final lap, we praised the Lord, calling out His names in thanksgiving...”

Kind of reminds me of some of our community contacts, doesn't it you? Perhaps the most recent was on Sunday morning when one of our youth, Lexi Jones, shared about a contact she and a couple of friends had with a woman who was struggling with a number of things. They had just decided to make contact with the lady, knowing some people had been griping about her, and as they visited they learned about her struggles and offered to pray for her. The woman was in tears that someone would pray for her, and said nobody had ever done anything like that for her before.

I don't know how many times over recent years we have had some of you share similar moments when God touched another person through some simple action or word on our part. I just want to encourage you to keep at it. We never know which word, which card, which invitation, which scripture may be the one God uses to significantly impact someone's life when we share it. God is often in the little things...watch for his opportunities there. And don't forget to tell someone when you see God at work; it encourages the rest of us!

Richard

August Bible Puzzle

What Biblical passages where animals play a significant role in God's work (not including sacrifices)?



August Chistian History Puzzle

What early advocate for the authority for scripture was so hated that he was post-humously declared a heretic by the Roman Catholic Church, and his body exhumed and burned, then the ashes cast into a river?

(Answers provided next month)

July Christian History Answer

Englishmen John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, considered the founders of the Baptists, went to the Netherlands where they learned how to baptize from the local Mennonites (who were practicing believer's baptism rather than infant baptism). They were initially baptized by pouring water over their heads, but later realized the Greek word means, "to immerse" and so later used that method for themselves again.

Bible Puzzle July

What do Sarah and Hagar symbolize? We don't often look as biblical individuals as allegories, but that is an interpretive method that has been used by some throughout history, including Paul's reference in Galatians 4:21ff, where Hagar represents the covenant of the law resulting in slavery and Sarah represents the new covenant and promise (and more in the passage).



Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. -Acts 17:11

Suppose you want to do some personal Bible study, to understand it better and to grow as a Christian, to be a "more noble" by "examining the Scriptures" as the Bereans did in the passage above, but you aren't sure where to start. Study is more than merely reading a passage, important as that is. It is different that meditating on a passage that the Psalms mentions, which is also a really great thing to do. When meditating on a passage, think of a cow chewing its cud...sitting in a pasture just chewing away to get every bit of nutrition it can our of the mouthful. Do the same with the verse or passage you select....chew on it, go over it multiple times while letting it really speak to you, considering what all might be in it. A favorite method of mine is to repeat the verse multiple times out loud, emphasizing a different word each time. (But **GOD** shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us—Romans 5:8. But God **SHOWS** his love for us But God shows **HIS** love for us.... you get the idea...) Study is different from hearing the scripture, whether presented in a sermon, by a Bible study leader, or even listening to it being read online or a cd. (You would be surprised how many fresh insights can come just by listening to a recorded reading of the Bible.)



Study requires that you dig a bit, that you ask questions and seek out answers, that you recognize the obvious lessons, but then go beyond that to discover more. You can study in a lot of ways. There are a lot of study guides published, based around specific topics or specific books of the Bible. Some of those are great, some not so great. They are all assembled by someone with a specific point of view that leads the writer of the guide to include some passages and exclude others, and to ask some questions and not others. Most of the time, the guide doesn't bother to tell you the particular perspectives or theological stance built into the structure of the material, so even knowing that may take some effort. But when you aren't sure how to proceed, those guides can be invaluable.

You can also skip the guide and do your own exploration of the Bible. (Sometimes people will say that they **ONLY** use the Bible....but that is actually misleading, because once you draw a conclusion about what you read, once you make a comment about it, then you have included something more than just the words in the Bible text...you have brought in ideas from your experience and other teaching you have had, and it is important to recognize that. An easy example to see is the mention in Matthew 12:46 of Jesus's "brothers." If you were Catholic, you would not think those men were Mary's sons. If you are not, then you would have no problem thinking of them as Jesus's younger (half) brothers by Mary. (The same is true of group studies when individuals express their thoughts....it isn't that it is not good to do that, in fact, it is very good to share those learnings. But it does mean that there is something included that is not "just the Bible.")

If you are studying on your own, and want to work at your own insights without a study guide, there are a number of ways you could do so. You could take the time to try to write up an outline of the chapter's structure. You could make a list of key words in a particular section, and then do research to discover more about what those words mean, or even pull out a



For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.
 - Isaiah 51:8 ESV



To My 1st Baptist Friends - Thank you so much for all the gift cards you gave me after my back surgery! Back is healing but it's my leg that hurts. Thank you also for the prayers, they mean so much! Thanks also to Deb Barden for helping Brian with cleaning the complex for me . -Mary Weldon

BOOKS! BOOKS! AND MORE BOOKS!



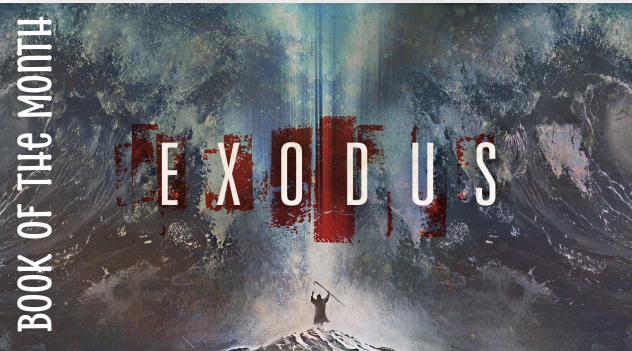
When asked to donate First Baptist Congregation NEVER disappoints! We are so thankful for your willingness to go above and beyond!!! We're hitting the pause button on book donations for our Fremont Days booth until January—with the exception of Children's Bibles, which we're still happily accepting! We're working on a fresh new vision for the kinds of books we'll feature, so stay tuned for updates in the months to come!

Birthday's & Anniversary's		
	2	Jerry & Roxanne Woodman
Doug Ritthaler	4	
	10	Clarence & Trudy Reiss
Jim Peterson	11	
Alan Holzerland	13	
Jessica Peterson	15	
Avalyn Ward	16	
Nancy Stoltenberg	18	David & Cynthia Christensen
	20	Hank & Amy Schollmeyer
	21	Dale & Sherri Tharp
	25	Alan & Shelly Holzerland
Rick Crytzer	28	
John Mitchell	28	
Sherri Tharp	29	
	31	Wayne & Mary Lamberty

A Beautiful Problem



There's no shortage of amazing things happening at Kodiak Baptist Mission. This week alone, we have a team leading a powerful Vacation Bible School, a bike pump track taking shape, and our mini donkeys stealing hearts. Add in the ice cream shop, thrift store, art studio, chuckwagon, playground, indoor gym, blacksmith shop, and archery center—and it's easy to see why people love this place. But here's the thing: a lot of places have neat stuff. What sets KBM apart is what's under the hood. We are, and always will be, a Jesus place. Sharing the gospel and the hope of eternal life in Jesus is at the core of everything we do. And because of that, we're disqualified from a number of grants and outside funding opportunities. It's a beautiful problem to have—but it means we rely on people like you. Every dollar you spend is a vote. We invite you to vote for Jesus. Vote for places that boldly share the gospel and work to bring the lost home. Together, let's make heaven crowded.



We absolutely LOVE our missionaries! Honestly, First Baptist Church could just as well be called *First Baptist "Missionary" Church*—that's how much they mean to us! It's such a joy when we get surprise visits, and with passionate people like Mike & Becky Mann and Pieter Kalkman out there sharing the Gospel, it's hard *not* to get fired up about JESUS!



JOIN ABW EACH MONTH AS THEY DIVE INTO a new BOOK OF THE BIBLE TOGETHER!!



Meetings

Esther - August 11 - 11 a.m.
Hannah - August 12 - 11:30 a.m.
Naomi - August 28 - 12:30 p.m.



VISION TEAM Minutes: July 9, 2025

Attendance: Mark & Vickie Anderson, Mike Raasch, Mary Weldon, Marcia Hill, Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman, Randy Cash, Eileen Cash, Pastor Crooks.

Devotion: N/A

Opening Prayer: Mike Raasch

Local Outreach: Mark & Vickie reported no current activities scheduled as school is out for the summer. Continuing to ask/taking food donations.

Missions: No new report

Children/Youth Ministries: Marcia stated gift cards were collected and distributed to assist members of the congregation. There were 3 adult sponsors and 13 kids that went to the Senior High camp at Camp Moses Merrill. The youth group is selling water at JCF Days as a fund raiser. Jesse is looking into possibly taking the youth group to a concert called "One" on August 24th, 2025 at the Ralston Arena. Bible study is being held on Thursday morning. Gabby Burt and Ali Jones have been accepted to attend the Urbana National Conference in December.

Treasurer: Randy reported the RVR Bank account is at \$16,590.94. The Building Account has \$5,624.28. The church received the invoice from Camp Moses Merrill on the cost of assisting children to go to camp which was \$4,400.00. A discussion was had to pull the funds for camp out of the Endowment Fund.

****Mary Weldon made a motion to take the full \$4,400.00 out of the Endowment Fund to pay for camp. Marcia Hill made a second motion. Motion was approved.

Events: No report

Discipleship: No new report

Worship Ministry: No new report

Caring Ministry: Betty reports they continue to send out cards.

ABM: Joel reported ready for John C Fremont Days. Bookshelves are being used to help display the free books being offered and a craft table is being set up. Joel reports they purchased 768 hot dogs/buns.

ABW: Eileen reported July theme is "Building God's Community". July project is raising money for mountain bikes to give to ABW Kodiak Baptist. Missionaries, Mike and Becky Mann, will speak at the meeting on July 10th, 2025. Hannah Circle is in charge of serving. The ABW new year book is now out. ABW will be giving a thank-you gift to Amity for all of her efforts.

Property Team: No report

Personnel Team: Pastor Crooks reported May was the end of Jesse's contract at work with the University. Considering options of where to go from there.

Pastor Crooks: Pastor Crooks reported the Bi-Annual conference was attended by Nola Crooks, Marcia Hill, and Youth Pastor Jesse. Missionary Peter Kalkman from the Netherlands will speak on Sunday, July 20t, 2025. Pastor Crooks spoke with Rhonda Reed (wife of missionary JD Reed) at the Bi-Annual conference. Another card will be sent to Rhonda and ask for prayers in continue support. JCF Days: worship service on Sunday, July 13th will be first service only to be held 9:15 am while the second service will be held under the Chautauqua tent in the park at 10:00 am as Pastor Crooks will be speaking. November 23rd is the Harvest



- Day 1: Psalm 133:1
- Day 2: Matthew 7:12
- Day 3: Matthew 18:19-20
- Day 4: Matthew 22:37-39
- Day 5: John 13:34-35
- Day 6: Proverbs 17:17
- Day 7: Proverbs 27:10
- Day 8: Proverbs 27:17
- Day 9: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- Day 10: Leviticus 19:18
- Day 11: Acts 2:44-45
- Day 12: Acts 2:46-47
- Day 13: Romans 12:3
- Day 14: Romans 12:4-5
- Day 15: Romans 12:15
- Day 16: 1 Corinthians 1:10
- Day 17: Colossians 3:12-13
- Day 18: Colossians 3:14-15
- Day 19: Galatians 6:2
- Day 20: 1 John 1:7
- Day 21: 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Day 22: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
- Day 23: James 5:14-15
- Day 24: James 5:16
- Day 25: John 15:12-13
- Day 26: Hebrews 10:24-25
- Day 27: 1 Corinthians 12:12
- Day 28: 1 Corinthians 12:13-14
- Day 29: 1 Corinthians 12:20-22
- Day 30: 1 Corinthians 12:23-24
- Day 31: 1 Corinthians 12:25-26



Check out our church library!
It's full of great reads for all ages!



FBKIDS | FBYOUTH



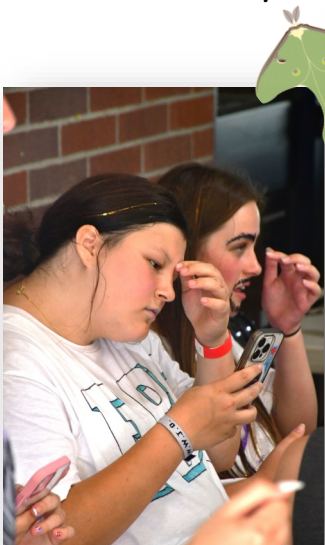
Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but get an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

On behalf of the youth, we want to say thank you for all of your support! In the month of July, we have had the opportunity to partake in the Fremont Days fun by being able to walk in the children's parade during the 2nd day of Fremont Days, along with that, we had the opportunity to fundraise some money for the youth budget during Fremont Days as well. With the money, we are planning on using a portion of the proceeds to help fund a few fun events that we have planned for the upcoming month. Speaking of the upcoming month, we will officially start youth backup on August 10th. Where we will be starting our sermon series titled "**What if...**". What if we went all in for Jesus this school year? How different would our families look? How different would our friends look? How different would our school look? What if we went all in for Jesus. Be on the lookout for other cool and fun things the youth has to come in the near future! -Jesse Kracht, Youth Leader

Please partner with us in prayer as our students return to school. Please for:

- A hedge of protection over their minds
- A sense of peace over their identity in Christ
- A sense of security in knowing who Christ is



Dinner with a guest representative from Rainbow Acres speaking. Mary and Marcia to reach out to Mel's Diner to serve. Pastor Crooks added Stephen Foreman, from Kodiak, spent time with the kids on Thursday, July 3rd, 2025. May open doors to go to Kodiak.

Closing: Pastor Crooks

As there was no other form of business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Shelly Bowen, clerk



On the Road with Mercy/ Juntos en el Camino



The Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. Exodus 3:7 NIV

I have heard the cry of my people...

What do you think about when you hear these words? I hear children crying out in hunger, I see people running in fear of deportation, I see grief in those who have lost their jobs, and I imagine these cries as prayers.

"God, help me!" "God, darkness surrounds me, and I don't know what to do".

Prayer is central to who we are as Christians as people that believe in a living God.

Prayers are not just the words we say before a meal or at bedtime.

Prayers are affirmations that we believe God hears us and responds.

How does God respond?

The context of our scripture is the calling of Moses. God heard the cries/prayers and invites Moses to join him in his plan. Moses said that he was slow of speech and tongue. Yet God provided resources; a staff, his brother Aaron and all he needed to be faithful.

Sometimes I feel that what I do is just a drop in the bucket. But God can do so much more than we can imagine or believe (Ephesians 3:20). God has provided a community of faith that lifts me up in prayer and provides financially.

I invite you to pray, to lift up your voice and affirm the God who gives us strength, the God who lives, the God that has a plan and responds to the cries of his people. I invite you to join God's invitation to join in that plan. I invite you to pray.

May we all join God's invitation to participate in his plan of redemption and restoration for this world that God loves so much.

-Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes



Things Change....
It's always a good idea to verify times and place.

August 2025

Cookies

- 3 - Esther
- 10 - Naomi
- 17 - ABM
- 24 - Hannah
- 31 - Esther

New Bible Study Groups Starting s Soon!

Thinking about starting a small group?

Let the office know and we will get it on the calendar!

WITHIN REACH

The aim of the event is to encourage students to live out their love for Jesus in tangible ways and connect with other Christians from their schools.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
If you're interested in volunteering with Children's Ministries, please reach out to Amity in the office to start your background check process. All background checks must be completed by August 15 and are required annually per church policy. Volunteers are also asked to attend a mandatory Child Safety Class on Sunday, August 17 at 12 PM (lunch will be provided), or you may choose to complete the training online. Thank you for helping us create a safe and welcoming environment for our kids and youth!					1 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study	2 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 9:30a - Personnel Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship
3 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service	4 9a - Men's Coffee	5 7p - AA Meeting	6 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	7 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	8 9a - Men's Coffee	9 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
10 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Meal 6p - Brown Bag Fellowship in FC 6:30p - FBYouth Group 7-12 6:30p - Movie Starts in FC	11 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 7p - Woodcarvers	12 11:30a - Hannah Circle 7p - AA Meeting	13 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	14 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom	15 9a - Men's Coffee Final Day to Complete Background Checks for Youth Volunteers	16
17 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 12p - Child Safety Class in FC 6p - FBYouth Meal 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	18 9a - Men's Coffee	19 7p - AA Meeting	20 9:30a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	21 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	22 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Square Bible Study	23
24 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Bible Study 11a - Casual Service 4:30p - FBYouth Event	25 9a - Men's Coffee	26	27 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids Group K-6 7p - Bible Study	28 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	29 9a - Men's Coffee	30
31 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - FBYouth Meal 6:30p - FBYouth Groups 7-12	7p - Woodcarvers	7p - AA Meeting				

ABM Conference @ Camp Moses Merrill

