

CONNECTING POINT

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2022



He made the phrase **"The Rest of the Story"** famous. In his heyday, Paul Harvey was reaching more than 24 million listeners a week. His program was on 1,200 radio stations, 400 Armed Forces Network stations and appeared in 300 newspapers. People loved listening to him, especially when he said, "... and now you know ... the rest of the story."

Mention the name Jonah and most people think how he ran from the Lord. How he boarded a ship bound for a destination, headed in the opposite direction God had told him to go. How he got on that ship and, in the midst of a horrendous storm, pled with his shipmates to throw him overboard because he was the reason for the storm.

But there's more to the story. Jonah repented. God gave him a second chance and he was instrumental in helping bring about a citywide revival in Nineveh that included the king!

When most people think of Peter, they think of a big fisherman with a big mouth, saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, even swearing on occasion. People remember him denying the Lord to a young maiden by a fire and a rooster crowing.

But there's more to the story. Peter repented. God forgave him and he became one of the most powerful prophets God ever had. He preached one of the most life-changing sermons ever preached on the day of Pentecost and helped start the very first church.

Bring up the name David, people immediately think of Israel's greatest king. They think of a giant named Goliath and some giant mistakes David made. Like committing adultery with Bathsheba, having her husband killed and trying to cover it up, until he was confronted by Nathan – the prophet.

But there's more to the story. David repented and God forgave. In fact, God allowed him to write the majority of the Psalms, the Bible's longest book. In the longest chapter of the Psalms, chapter 119, we get a glimpse of one of the most godly men who ever lived. God's own testimony, recorded in 1 Kings 3:14, makes it clear David was a changed man.

How about the name John Mark? Remember him? Those who do, remember him as the young man who turned back from the missionary journey in Pamphylia. He was the source of a dispute between Paul and Barnabas that became so intense they parted ways.

But there's more to the story. Although Paul wanted nothing more to do with him when he deserted their mission work in Pamphylia, in his final days, Paul specifically asked for John Mark to come because, "he is helpful to me in my ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). Obviously, there had been a change in John Mark's life and in Paul's attitude toward him.

What about the Samaritan woman in John 4? When people think of her, they usually think of the well where she was sitting and how Jesus asked her for a drink. They remember the fact Jesus pointed out, she'd been married five times and was currently living with a man who was not her husband.

But there's more to the story. She repented, gave her life to the Lord and was responsible for a massive revival in her town.

I remember a friend back in high school, in Kansas, who was a vulgar-mouthed pagan. He used to make fun of people who claimed to be Christians. He was a tough guy, getting into fights and possessing a reputation no one ever envied. He never had even the slightest interest in God or the church.

But there's more to the story. I learned after accepting his friend request on Facebook that he is married and one of his goals is to be the most dedicated Christian husband and father and grandfather he can possibly be. He's obviously repented and given his life to God.

I love THE REST OF THE STORY. Don't you? I love the fact God doesn't leave us in our sins, or in our shame, even when some of our friends and even family members do.

The fact is people can and do change. And many times, even though you and I may not know it, **THE REST OF THE STORY** is the best part. There's hope for everyone. Whether your name is Jonah, Peter, David, John Mark, an unnamed Samaritan woman, my friend from high school, or even you! There's hope.

John put it this way, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Our unchanging God will change us into the image of Christ, if we'll just let Him.

You can begin to rewrite **THE REST OF THE STORY** of your own life today, by simply allowing God to do what He does best.

Will you?

Blessings,

Pastor David

Our Heavenly Homeland



Read

Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...

Reflect

How does being a citizen of heaven change your perspective and your behavior?

Each Memorial Day, we are reminded of the sacrifices that many made to secure and protect the freedoms and privileges that we get to enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. I am proud to be an American citizen. Because I am proud of my citizenship, I follow the laws of the land and perform my civic duties.

Just as I am a proud American, the Philippians were proud Romans. They considered it an honor and a privilege to be a colony of the great Roman empire. Even though they were hundreds of miles from Rome, Philippians were registered Romans. Likewise, as an American citizen, my birth certificate, driver's license, social security card, and passport all identify me as a registered American.

But in today's verse, Paul says that despite records of their official status as Romans, their true citizenship is in heaven. The writer of Hebrews wrote something similar about the Old Testament faithful: "...they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had

gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city" ([Hebrews 11:13b-16](#)).

The Old Testament faithful were strangers and exiles on earth. The Philippians who had trusted in Jesus Christ as their Lord were now also foreigners in this world. And so are we! My documents say that I am an American citizen but really, I am alien here! My primary citizenship is in heaven, not in the USA. No matter what country you call home on this planet, if you belong to Jesus, you don't really belong there. You are a sojourner. Your homeland is in heaven!

[Revelation 21](#) describes our future heavenly home and it promises to be a much better country than any worldly one. No crying, no pain, no death, no evil, unparalleled beauty, a city of light, God in our midst, and Jesus as our King! But in order to gain admittance, [Revelation 21:27](#) says we must have our names written in the Lamb's book of life. The book of life documents that we are registered citizens of heaven.

Friend, is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Jesus reassures us that if we've confessed Him, He will confess our names before God in heaven ([Matt.10:32-33](#)) and that our names are written down in heaven forever ([Luke 10:20](#)). When we proclaim Christ as Lord, we become documented citizens of God's heavenly kingdom. Given this heavenly citizenship, we should act like proud citizens. We should obey our King and remain loyal to Him, we should participate in the civic duties He has given us, and we should be prepared to sacrifice for our King and our fellow countrymen (other believers).

Most importantly, we should be eagerly awaiting our Savior. The promise of His return should give us hope. The Philippians weren't supposed to place their faith in Caesar, and we shouldn't place our faith in any president. No matter what is happening here on earth, our hope is heaven and our faith is in Christ. We know that this world is our temporary residence. We'll be heading home soon!

Pray

Jesus, You are my King and I long for my heavenly home with You. I know it won't just be a better country—it will be a perfect one. As I sojourn in this land though, help me to be a good ambassador for You. Amen.

June Celebrations



CHRISTIAN HOMEMAKERS
JUNE 9TH
9:30 A.M.
HOSTESS: DARLENE NELSON
DEVOTIONS: DIXIE DRAPER



Esther Circle
June 15
1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Devotions / Missions: **Jan Hanson**
Hostess: **Ruth Dean**



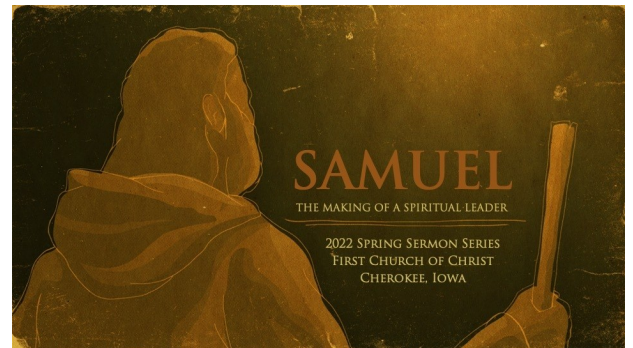
SAY HELLO AS A GREETER!
SIGN UP TO SERVE IN THE LOBBY

We are starting up greeting once more! All you have to do is say hello, direct guests to bulletins, communion, and provide answers to questions. Hand shaking is optional but smiles are a must. A sign up sheet is located on the lobby table. Sign up for as many dates as you want. Greeters should be ready to say hello by 8:30 a.m.



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
believe love grow

- June 4**
Jan Hanson
- June 7**
Dakota G. (MCS Staff)
- June 8**
Pam Cronin
- June 11**
Karen Weinreich
Tyler S. (MCS Student)
Nicole G. (MCS Staff)
- June 12**
Shari Eldredge
- June 15**
Braella Inman
Kevin & Twyla Schmillen
- June 16**
Bianca Aguilar (BB)
- June 17**
Benjamin Nelson
- June 18**
Larry Heschke
- June 19**
Justine Madison (BB)
- June 20**
Cathleen Kammerer
Tarsha S. (MCS Staff)
- June 22**
Vivianna Rodriguez (BB)
- June 23**
Dawson V. (MCS Staff)
- June 24**
Darlene Patten
- June 27**
Mike & Sholeen Sparks
- June 28**
Dixie Draper
Joseph S. (MCS Student)
- June 29**
Randy C. (MCS Staff)



SAMUEL: THE MAKING OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

We often wonder about the childhoods of great people. We have little information about the early years of most of the people mentioned in the Bible. One delightful exception is Samuel; he came as a result of God's answer to Hannah's fervent prayer for a child. (In fact, the name *Samuel* comes from the Hebrew expression, 'heard of God.')

God shaped Samuel from the start. Like Moses, Samuel was called to fill many different roles: judge, priest, prophet, counselor, and God's man at a turning point in the history of Israel. God worked through Samuel because Samuel was willing to be one thing: God's servant.

Join us for worship each week this spring for this 7-part biographical study entitled "Samuel: The Making of a Spiritual Leader." Together we will learn so many practical lessons just by looking at how God dealt with one individual who was open to his leading.

Meal Ministry Reforming

Jesus' ministry, while he was here with us, always centered around people. He loved people and when He left us He left his ministry in the hands of us earthly people. One of the ways FCC had carried on Jesus' wishes was to form a Meal Ministry. It blessed many people over the time it was active, but then a pandemic began and it was shut down.

In John 6:1-13 we read about Jesus feeding the 5,000. He could have fed those 5,000 people without help, he had the power! But he taught a lesson with a boy, his small lunch, and the help of many hands whom Jesus had instructed. He taught about reaching into the needs of people. A boy, a lunch, and many helping hands directed by Jesus made this ministry happen.

It is now post two years since the Meal Ministry was discontinued. There are needs for a Meal Ministry again. Can or will you help us go forward? Jerry and Joyce Clark have volunteered to head up this ministry. There is a need for men and women of the church to join and help make the Meal Ministry active again as there can be no ministry without the help of others. These words are written in red. **The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'** (Matthew 25:40)

There will be a meeting to establish the Meal Ministry held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. here at First Church of Christ in the Chapel / Conference Room.



We encourage those who want to participate in the Meal Ministry to attend this meeting. The meeting is designed to outline how the ministry will function and who the ministry will serve. Men and women are encouraged to participate in the ministry.

There will be a few ways you can participate in this ministry. First, you can provide meals. Second you can provide monetary donations for food. Third, you can provide delivery of the meals for those who are willing to provide a meal but are unable to drive to deliver the meals.

We hope and pray to see you at the meeting to continue some of His good works here on earth.



A Memorial Day presentation and flag dedication ceremony will take place at

**Oak Hill Cemetery
Monday May 30th at 11 a.m.**



**Grandfathers, fathers, sons,
and boys. We have a gift for
you on Father's Day!**

Praise Him Anyway

Bible Reading Plan

1. Acts 16:16-40
2. Psalm 30:1-12
3. Deuteronomy 10:12-22
4. Psalm 76:1-12
5. 2 Chronicles 5:1-14
6. Psalm 40:1-5
7. Psalm 63:1-11
8. Luke 1:39-56
9. Psalm 148:1-6
10. Psalm 148:7-14
11. Psalm 147:1-11
12. Psalm 147:12-20
13. Psalm 34:1-7
14. Psalm 42:1-11
15. Psalm 71:1-8
16. Psalm 71:9-16
17. Psalm 47:1-9
18. Ephesians 5:15-20
19. Psalm 95:1-7
20. Psalm 8:1-9
21. Psalm 103:1-10
22. Psalm 103:11-22
23. Psalm 100:1-5
24. Psalm 111:1-10
25. Psalm 65:1-7
26. Psalm 65:8-13
27. Psalm 145:1-8
28. Psalm 145:9-21
29. Psalm 146:1-10
30. Isaiah 63:7-14
31. Psalm 150:1-6

This Bible Reading Plan was put together by Rachel Wojo at www.rachelwojo.com

BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS UPDATE

Board Meeting Notes May 15, 2022

Ministry Reports

- All prayer requests for the prayer chain are now being asked to come through the church office.
- Volunteers for Bible Buddies considered providing a program for two nights at least twice during the summer months. It was also suggested that we might possibly look into presenting a VBS with volunteers from Crossroads Christian Church. Barry and Nancy will explore that possibility with their new pastor Jonathan Caldwell.

Mission Reports

- Mark Leonard from Camp Nebowa will be our guest preacher on June 5th.

Worship

- David will be on vacation May 27th – June 3. The board approved presenting the pre-recorded sermon on video to the congregation that day.
- David requested the purchase of some equipment for use in presenting sermons. He requested a curved truss podium, a Shure Wireless Ear Set and coinciding cable. After some discussion Tom Mortenson motioned to approve the purchases and Barry Nelson seconded. The motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds

- Larry Heschke requested that Mike Rose at Valley Glass go ahead purchase the new door for the lower southwest corner. We will have to get a rough arrival date so we can remove the old door ahead of time. The old door and frame will have to be removed using a concrete saw.
- Barry Nelson repaired the downspout on the west side of the building.
- Joe Draper and Larry Heschke have been working on some maintenance around the building:
 - * Larry shaved down door at front of sanctuary so it wouldn't stick anymore
 - * Larry and Joe nailed all the eaves back in around the building that were loose.
 - * Larry and Joe also found out that the ash trees on the east side of the building all have the ash borer beetle and will need to be cut down sometime soon.
 - * Joe and Larry determined that the roof on the parsonage is likely good for another three years and at that time they will also look into replacing soffits and gutters.
 - * Larry Heschke is going to work on the west side peak of the building with scraping and repainting this coming week.
 - * We also need to make sure that gutters get cleaned out on both the church and the parsonage at least a couple times of year.
- David requested a new air conditioning unit for his office. He presented one he thought might work well from Amazon. There was some discussion and Larry Heschke motioned to approve the purchase of the new unit. Tom Mortensen seconded the motion and the motion carried. If the new unit works well in David's office the board may later purchase one for the chapel area.

New Business

- June 19th is Father's Day – Nancy will put together some gift items for the men of the congregation.
- The church was gifted a monetary donation from the estate of Louise Dobson. The board will decide where to place the funds after the funds are received.

Larry Heschke motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tom Mortenson seconded the motion. The motion carried. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2022. David Hall prayed in closing.

ATTENDANCE

May 1		May 8		May 15		May 22	
On Campus	63	On Campus	91	On Campus	71	On Campus	82
Online	25	Online	22	Online	26	Online	
TOTAL	88	TOTAL	113	TOTAL	97	TOTAL	

OFFERING

May 1		May 8		May 15		May 22	
On Campus	1659.28	On Campus	1843.86	On Campus	1986.10	On Campus	
Online	257.10	Online	-0-	Online	197.10	Online	
Designated	1000.00	Designated	-0-	Designated		Designated	
TOTAL	\$ 2,916.38	TOTAL	\$1843.86	TOTAL	\$2183.20	TOTAL	\$2,265.00

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

5-Jun	12-Jun	19-Jun	26-Jun
Children's Church	Children's Church	Dixie	Children's Church
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School	Children's Sunday School
Sholeen Sparks	Polly Fishman	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall
Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message	Communion Message
Guy Fishman	Mike Sparks	David Hall	Kirk Nelson
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader
Wren Smith	Wren Smith	Sharon Henkel	David Hall
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard
Wren Smith	Wren Smith		
Piano	Piano	Piano	Piano
Eleanor Johnston			
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers
Larry Heschke	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Sharon Henkel
Dennis Smith	Sharon Henkel	Nancy Nelson	Larry Heschke
Angel Jansen	Dennis Smith	Dennis Smith	
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint
Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Mike Sparks
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors
Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall	Angela Hall
David Hall	David Hall	David Hall	David Hall

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

“**BLESSED** are the **POOR IN SPIRIT**,
For theirs is the **KINGDOM** of **HEAVEN**.
Blessed are those who **MOURN**,
For they shall be **COMFORTED**.
Blessed are the **MEEK**,
For they shall **INHERIT** the **EARTH**.
Blessed are those who **HUNGER** and **THIRST** for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**,
For they shall be **FILLED**.
Blessed are the **MERCIFUL**,
For they shall obtain **MERCY**.
Blessed are the **PURE IN HEART**,
For they shall **SEE GOD**.
Blessed are the **PEACEMAKERS**,
For they shall be called **SONS OF GOD**.
Blessed are those who are **PERSECUTED** for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they **REVILE** and persecute you, and say all kinds of **EVIL AGAINST** you **FALSELY** for My sake. **REJOICE** and be exceedingly **GLAD**, for **GREAT** is your **REWARD** in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

R U R K S H Y D X J C L V L M S E B H T R A E Z L U T V
J N B O C P H V W Q S S E N S U O E T H G I R U F Z C J
N D E R L V R D Y U V V J Y V S P J I H X Y M O U R N I
I D Q V J V B L G P Q N J J P W L Y X U C R K F S F G Q
A Z Z K A V A D R N E Q Z R H E Q M B N A P R R F F S I
Y O F V D E K J Q G X C K Y T S N I A G A L I V E Q E M
G B H B Q T H N G I K W Y X X L A R Q E N W G S T H E B
L Q M E V C K C Q M X N D E T U C E S R E P O J Q A G L
A T S F T E Y E C I O J E R E L L J G F B W C W S G O A
D Y D H E J K M O D G N I K S O N S O F G O D G I H D L
Q K V M P B A C C N N Y I W N D E T R O F M O C A U P V
E A T I R I P S N I R O O P R D K B T I J Q V D K I Y L
L Q R M B M P E B U A J F G Q E T R A E H N I E R U P B
I Y O G N T J I Q B X P N G J S S J Z Q E N N Q F B X I
V L Y R Y W K R R E W A R D N S C R R P G W V N O C A Q
E E O K X I T V W I U Q R Y V E N H E F U R J S Q F C L
R S O T X A U Q Y L Q O M N J L P W C K Y B N V J R S R
O L U F I C R E M Q S W S H F B Y I I M A T I R E H N I
T A A W V N M R G M I H B I T U E T G S O M R F B V A F
L F D W T B R I E O D Z L W V V D D N A D D E Q L Q U Z
O D M A O J Q R C K X L A S K J O Q N Z R W O C W H W P
P B E Q C X C M N N E P I I X F T E M C M W V Z A S D K
M R O I T Y T F W D G F J X I X Q M K M E T B Q S E I G
G N K M K K T S R I H T B R V W H O I E T T K K C R P U



Flag Disposal Ceremony

Presented by

Scout Troop 107

In cooperation with local VFW and American Legion

June 14, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Cherokee Airport Parking Lot

You and Me Forever

FRANCIS CHAN

Description

Marriage is Great, But it's not Forever

This seven session Bible study series, based on the book *You and Me Forever* from best-selling author Francis Chan and Lisa Chan, will challenge you to view your marriage like never before. These seven inspiring videos will help you dive deeper into the content of the book as you explore themes like:

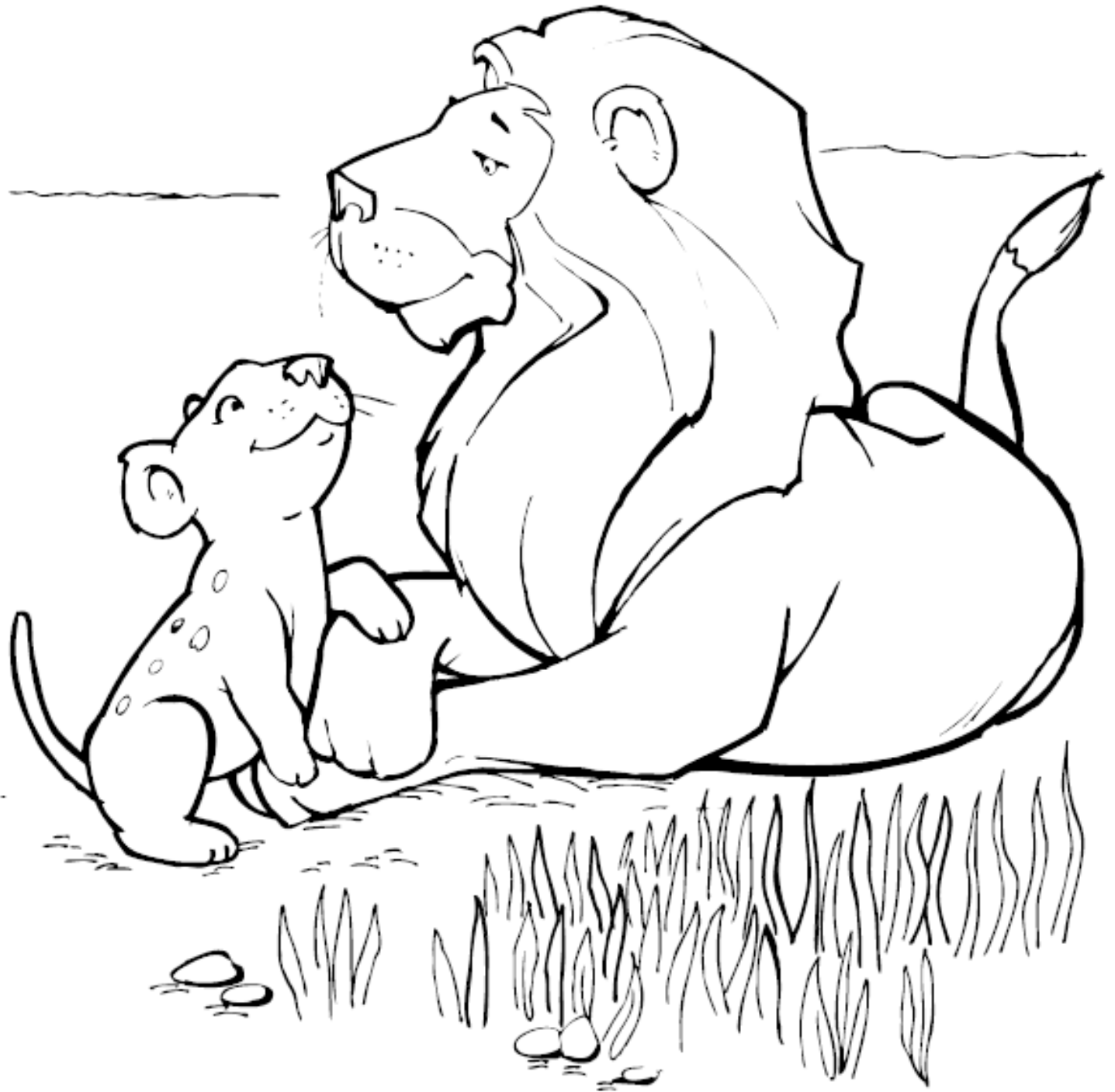
- It's until death do us part. Then comes eternal rewards or regrets depending on how we spent our lives.
- While we cannot allow lesser things to destroy our marriages, we also cannot allow marriage to distract us from greater things.
- A jealous God asks us to pursue Him first and most. Then life makes sense, and everything falls into its proper place.
- Love, laughter, and intimacy were all created to be enjoyed. So there is a way to love family deeply without ignoring heaven.
- It all comes down to our focus.

Jesus was right. We have it all backwards. **The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage.**

This study will help you discover the adventure that you were made for --and learn how to thrive in it. Couples of all ages and stages of marriage or engagement are invited to join us at **7:00pm each Sunday evening July 10th - August 21st**. Cost for the study is \$10 per person which covers a copy of the book and study guide. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the church foyer. You can also register by contacting the church office at (712) 225-2667.



I Love You, Dad!



BIBLE CLASSES

10:00 a.m.

Christian Standard Curriculum
Chapel

Ladies Class
Room 7 - Downstairs

Men's Class
Room 8 - Downstairs

Children's Class
Downstairs

MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nebowa Christian Camp
Midwest Christian Services
Deaf Missions
International Disaster Emergency Services
Rapha International
Voice of the Martyrs

CHURCH INFO

Worship
Sunday Mornings
9:00 a.m.

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leadership
Pastor David Hall (641) 638-4762
Mike Sparks, Elder (712) 261-4730
Kirk Nelson, Elder (712) 540-9591
Larry Heschke, Elder (712) 221-7592
Mark Patten, Deacon
Barry Nelson, Deacon
Tom Mortenson, Deacon

Website
www.cherokeefcc.com
FB: @firstchurchcherokee

Phone: (712) 225-2667
Email: office@cherokeefcc.com
Office Secretary: Nancy Nelson



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