

**WELCOME TO**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

**FOLLOWING JESUS BY LISTENING TO HIS VOICE**

**COLOSSIANS 3:16–20**

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:  
FOLLOW – OUR JOURNEY WITH JESUS

# **FOLLOWING JESUS BY LISTENING TO HIS VOICE**

## **COLOSSIANS 3:16—20**

**What We Mean by “The Word of God”**

**Read the Word Broadly to Hear the Whole Story of Redemption**

**Read the Word Deeply So it Dwells Richly**

### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

Read Psalm 50:14-15 and Hebrews 4:14-16 to prepare for Sunday’s sermon.

### **DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING**

FEBRUARY 15: LEVITICUS 8-10  
FEBRUARY 16: LEVITICUS 11-13  
FEBRUARY 17: LEVITICUS 14-15  
FEBRUARY 18: LEVITICUS 16-18  
FEBRUARY 19: LEVITICUS 19-21  
FEBRUARY 20: LEVITICUS 22-23  
FEBRUARY 21: LEVITICUS 24-25

# UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

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## **NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS**

Our New Testament Theology Class continues tonight at 6:00 PM in the Prayer Room. Please join us as we continue our study in the Apocalypse of John.

## **AAA BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Bell Creek is participating in AAA Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign to support the Sanctity of Human Life. Empty baby bottles are available in the back of the gym after both services for pick up. If you prefer to donate online or have questions, please contact Becky DeGrazia (BeckyD1633@gmail.com). Bottles are due back to Bell Creek by Sunday, February 22.

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

Kids Preschool-4th Grade are invited to watch *Robots* this Friday, February 20 from 6:00-8:30 PM. Dinner, snacks and activities provided. Our 5th-8th Graders are invited to watch *David* with Pastor Adam in the Student Room at the same time. Please visit [www.bellcreek.org/calendar](http://www.bellcreek.org/calendar) to register if your child would like to attend.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Our next 3-week Membership Class will begin Sunday, February 22 in the Prayer Room during both services. If you are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Dylan ([dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org)).

## **BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY**

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, March 8th. We will discuss *Everything is Never Enough: Ecclesiastes' Surprising Path to Resilient Happiness* by Bobby Jamieson. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Dylan ([dylan@bellcreek.org](mailto:dylan@bellcreek.org)).

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Save the date! We are excited to share that we will be hosting VBS on July 20-24. We will be journeying to *Emerald Crossing: An Irish Adventure through Psalm 23*. Registration will open this spring for both children and volunteers.

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

## **PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

## **AWANA**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

## **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
AND EVENTS AT [BELLCREEK.ORG](http://BELLCREEK.ORG)

# Sermon Series: Follow – Our Journey with Jesus

Sunday, February 15, 2026

## Sermon Title: Following Jesus by Listening to His Voice

To follow Jesus, we must let His Word dwell in us richly—understanding what the Word of God is, reading it broadly to hear the whole story of redemption, and reading it deeply so the Word of Christ shapes our daily lives.

### What We Mean by “The Word of God”

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:16–17, ESV)

The Word of God ultimately points us to the Person of Jesus, who is called “The Word” (John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13).

The Word of God is God speaking: God makes “decrees” such as “Let there be light,” God speaks directly to people, God speaks through human lips (prophets) – “Thus says the Lord.”

The Bible is God’s Word in written form (2 Tim. 3:16; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:1–2).

When we open the Bible, we are placing ourselves before the living voice of God.

From the Bell Creek Statement of Faith:

The Word of God: We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts. We believe that its human authors wrote it under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe the Bible is our authority (to believe the Bible is to believe God, to obey the Bible is to obey God), inerrant (without error), clear (understandable – even by children), necessary (the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God’s will), sufficiency (the Bible contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly).

“12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Heb 4:12, ESV)

Since the words in the Bible is God speaking to us, then we don’t want to hear Him only occasionally, we want to hear Him in the fullness of all He has said.

Question: If the Bible really is God speaking and reveals His plan to redeem sinners through Jesus, what is keeping you from reading one Gospel (maybe Luke or John?) with the honest question: “Is Jesus truly the Son of God and the only Savior?” What would you be willing to do if He proves to you, in His Word, that this is true?

## Read the Word Broadly to Hear the Whole Story of Redemption

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:16–17, ESV)

Read the Word broadly to hear God's Voice!

In Ezra 8, after a remnant of the Jews returns to Jerusalem, Ezra gathers all the people and they listen to the Word of God from early morning to midday for 8 days. It says that other priests were standing by to help explain the Word to the people.

Paul tells Timothy, "14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:13–17, ESV)

So, "all Scripture," all of it, is inspired and profitable for teaching, rebuke, correction, training in righteousness, so that we may be complete, and equipped for every good work!

So, we read the Bible broadly because God is speaking in all of it, and we want to hear Him in the full range of what He has said.

Read the Word Broadly to be fed by God

"And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "" (Matthew 4:3–4, ESV)

Many of us, even though we are God's people, are spiritually undernourished or starving not because we don't love God, but because we are not regularly feeding on His Word.

Read the Word Broadly Because it is Delightful

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16, ESV)

Read the Word Broadly to Understand the Big Story of Scripture (Redemptive History)

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:27, ESV)

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the ages." (Hebrews 1:1–2, ESV)

The Bible is a collection of writings that progressively reveal: Who God is, Who we are, What we are expected to do and be according to His Law, How we've failed, and God's loving plan to redeem mankind through Jesus Christ.

Here's a breakdown of how long it would take us to listen to some of the books of the Bible on a standard Bible app or website:

Genesis: about 3 hours 30 minutes, Leviticus: about 1 hour and 50 minutes, 1 and 2 Chronicles: about 5 hours, Psalms: about 5 hours 15 minutes, John: about 2 hours 15 minutes, Isaiah: 3 hours, 45 minutes, Luke: about 2 hours 45 minutes, Romans: about 45 minutes, Ephesians: about 20 minutes, Philemon: about 5 minutes, Revelation: about 1 hour 45 minutes.

"...all the word of God should dwell in us. Content not your selves with some part of it; that you read the Gospel, or New Testament, but neglect the Old, as is the practice of some flush Notionists. Or that you know the Historical part of both, but neglect the Doctrinal, which is the fond and Childish custom of some, who read the Scriptures, skipping over the moral discourses as impertinent to the story- But [it dwells richly within us] when we receive the whole Doctrine contained in it, and are diligent in revolving the Prophets, Evangelists, Apostles, every part and parcel of the Heavenly revealed truth." – Ezekiel Hopkins

But hearing the whole story of redemption is meant to shape us personally, which is why we must also learn to read the Word specifically, deliberately, and deeply.

## Read the Word Deeply So it Dwells Richly

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:16–17, ESV)

We must store up a bank of specific Scriptures and promises so we are ready for every attack of the Enemy and every circumstance of life. How will we cope with anxiety, depression, jealousy, impatience, anger, fear, doubts, regret, lust, bitterness, unforgiveness, or suffering if we don't know the specific Words of God that address these things?

How can we combat the Enemy by saying, "It is written..." if we do not know what God has written about the attack we are facing?

Remember the example of Jacob in Genesis 32? All his troubles have come to a head, and he is about to face his brother Esau, whom he swindled. Esau is coming with a host of armed men toward Jacob and his family.

Jacob prays to God and says, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,'" (Genesis 32:9, ESV)

"But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'" (Genesis 32:12, ESV).

Jacob reminds God of the specific promises God gave him in Genesis 28! We need to do the same thing. We need to know the specific promises that address all that we will encounter in this life. God has given us these promises for our defense, our comfort, our joy, and for an abundant life in Christ.

So, we need to not only hear the Word or read the Word, but we need to:

Think Deeply about the Word

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2, ESV)

Memorize the Word

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11, ESV)

Talk about the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16, ESV)

Bring the Word Into Our Marriage and Our Family

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, ESV)

Share the Word with Those Outside the Church

“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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

Reading the Word, thinking deeply about the Word, memorizing the Word, discussing the Word, and sharing the Word allows the Spirit of God to reign in our hearts, homes, and habits.

“First, Let the Word of Christ dwell in you. Do not only give it the hearing, as a strange and marvellous story: let not the memory of it vanish out of your minds, as soon as the sound of the Words vanisheth out of your Ears, but lay it up and lodge it in your Hearts, make it familiar and Domcstick to you; that it may be as well known to you, as those that live in the fame House with you. Read it, ponder and meditate upon it, till you have transcribed the Bible upon your hearts, and Faithfully printed it in your memories.” – Ezekiel Hopkins

To follow Jesus is to listen to His voice in His Word. The Word of Christ is not an accessory to discipleship; it is the means by which the living Christ addresses us. We are called to read broadly and deeply so that God’s Word shapes our lives, homes, and witness.

Application: What is one concrete step you will take this week so “the word of Christ” dwells in you more richly? How are you going to start reading broadly and reading deeply? What specific promises do you

need to put in your “bank” for a present struggle? Or maybe it’s way past time to store up promises for the future?

Do you feel like Jacob somewhere in your life right now? Do you feel like troubles are going over your head? What specific difficulty is threatening you, and which specific promise from God will you bring before the Lord in prayer this week, the way Jacob did? Come before Him, and ask Him to remember His promise and meet you with His presence, help, and grace!

## BENEDICTION

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10, ESV)



## Following Jesus by Listening to His Voice

1. What did you think of the sermon "Following Jesus by Listening to His Voice"?

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2. If the Bible is truly God speaking, fully truthful and sufficient for salvation and godliness, how does that shape the way you currently approach reading it?

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3. The Word of God points us to the Person of Jesus (called "The Word") When you read the Bible, are you seeking principles for life, or the living God Himself? Explain.

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4. How does reading Scripture broadly (Genesis to Revelation) strengthen your understanding of: Who God is? Who you are as a sinner? How Christ fulfills the Law and the Prophets? Why salvation is by grace through faith?

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5. What present struggle (anxiety, anger, fear, doubt, temptation, discouragement) requires a specific promise of God stored in your heart? What will you do this week to let the word of Christ dwell inside you more richly?

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