

Spring Quarter 2019

Adults, Teens, and Growing Together!

New Teaching

New in Christ

- March 3 **A New Loyalty** *I Thessalonians 1:1-10*
March 10 **A New Affection** *I Thessalonians 3:1-13*
March 17 **A New Way of Life** *I Thessalonians 4:1-12*
March 24 **A New Understanding** *I Thessalonians 4:13—5:10*

New Growth

- March 31 **A Growing Confidence** *II Thessalonians 1:1-12*
April 7 **A Growing Awareness** *II Thessalonians 2:1-12*
April 14 **A Growing Resolve** *II Thessalonians 2:13—3:5*

The True Gospel

- April 21 **Remember the True Gospel! (Easter)** . . . *Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 28:1-7, 18-20*
April 28 **The Source of Paul's Gospel** *Galatians 1:10-24*
May 5 **The Gospel of Faith Foretold** *Galatians 3:1-14*
May 12 **The Gospel: Faith in Christ** *Galatians 3:15-25*
May 19 **Heirs Because of the Gospel** *Galatians 3:26—4:7*
May 26 **The Gospel in Action** *Galatians 6:1-10*

This quarter begins with seven lessons from Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. These letters touch on a number of important issues.

Lesson 1 reminds us of the importance of godly character and actions as it points to the impact the Thessalonians' faith, hope, and love had on the lives of others. The second lesson reveals the deep affection Paul had for this church, as exhibited by his concern for them and prayers on their behalf.

Lesson 3 urges us to excel in all aspects of our Christian lives. We should not be content with less than our best when it comes to obeying God, loving others, and working.

Lesson 4 introduces the great hope of our Lord's return in I Thessalonians 4 and 5. Paul explains key details of Christ's return and how we should live in light of it.

Lesson 5 takes us to II Thessalonians 1, where Paul encouraged this persecuted church with the certainty of divine justice. Our sixth lesson covers Paul's correction of a misunderstanding regarding the end times. He urges them to cling to God's written revelation. The final lesson in the Thessalonian epistles reminds us of our responsibility to exhort, encourage, and pray for one another.

The final six lessons, primarily from the book of Galatians, focus on the doctrine of salvation and how it relates to works. Lesson 8 introduces the problem presented by false teachers. They taught salvation by works rather than the true gospel, which is clearly based in Christ's resurrection, a truth we will explore in Matthew 28.

Lesson 9 records Paul's defense of his teaching against charges leveled against him. He defended the gospel of grace he preached and his authority to preach it.

Salvation by grace alone is the consistent teaching of the Bible. The Apostle Paul set forth the scriptural argument very clearly, as lesson 10 demonstrates.

To this day there is much confusion about the Mosaic Law and how it relates to Christians. Lessons 11 and 12 tackle this subject and explain how the law served as a tool to bring us to Christ.

Our final lesson reminds us that the gospel of grace we embrace is not merely a confession but a reality that is lived out.

Spring Quarter 2019

Beginners, Primaries, and Juniors

Servants of the Lord

Fearless Servants

March 3	God's Servant Moses	<i>Numbers 16:23-34</i>
March 10	God's Servant David	<i>I Samuel 17:43-51</i>
March 17	God's Servant Hezekiah	<i>II Chronicles 32:1-8, 21-23</i>
March 24	God's Servant Jeremiah	<i>Jeremiah 26:1, 4-15</i>
March 31	God's Servant Esther	<i>Esther 4:7-17</i>

Beloved Servant

April 7	God's Chosen Servant	<i>Matthew 12:9-21</i>
April 14	Jesus Honored as God's Servant	<i>Matthew 21:1-16</i>
April 21	God's Servant Raised to Life (Easter)	<i>Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20</i>
April 28	Serving in Jesus' Power	<i>Acts 4:1-3, 7-20</i>

Faithful Servants

May 5	Samuel: Ready to Serve	<i>I Samuel 3:1-10, 19-21</i>
May 12	The Three Hebrews: Ready to Die	<i>Daniel 3:13-18, 21-26</i>
May 19	Philip: Ready to Give the Gospel	<i>Acts 8:26-40</i>
May 26	Paul: Ready to Do God's Work	<i>Acts 19:1-12</i>

A fascinating and diverse group of biblical narratives greets the teacher this quarter. Some of the stories are ones the children will be well acquainted with, such as the encounter between David and Goliath, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace, the story of Queen Esther, and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Others the students will be completely unfamiliar with, such as Jeremiah's temple address, Hezekiah's encounter with the Assyrian army, or Paul's missionary work in Asia.

Although some lessons will be better known than others, a good approach to take might be to treat each lesson as if it is the first time the students are hearing the material. In this way important details will perhaps not be left out that otherwise might simply be glossed over.

Unit I focuses on five stories from the Old Testament. As already mentioned, students will probably have heard at least the story of David and Goliath and possibly the account of Esther and King Ahasuerus (Xerxes). Not so familiar to the students will be Moses and the rebellion of Korah, Jeremiah's defense in the temple, and the Assyrian threat to Hezekiah and Judah.

Unit II focuses on Christ, the "Beloved Servant." The lessons cover Christ's baptism, His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Easter, and Christ's power in the healing of the lame man at the temple, an event involving the Apostles Peter and John.

Unit III is comprised of two lessons from the Old Testament (the beginning of Samuel's ministry, and the three Hebrew young men in the fiery furnace) and two from the New Testament (Philip and the Ethiopian court official and Paul and his missionary endeavor in Asia).

Whether students are acquainted with the stories or not, paying attention to details, such as easily overlooked phrases in the biblical account, will help students (and perhaps the teacher as well) gain a greater understanding of the text.

For instance, in lesson 2 the golden text contains the phrase "that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (I Sam. 17:46). David's victory over Goliath did not just end the Philistine threat to Israel. It sent word out to all the surrounding nations that the God of Israel was mighty and powerful and not to be trifled with.

In lesson 8, Matthew's account of Jesus' resurrection, we see that the risen Lord appeared first to a group of women

who came to the tomb at dawn. This is significant, because in the ancient world a woman's testimony would not even be admitted in court because it was considered unreliable. Yet it was to these women that God would first reveal the news of Jesus' resurrection.

How deeply it is necessary to go into these details with students at this age level is something you as a teacher will decide. It may be enough just to explain the biblical account in simple terms the students can grasp without delving into other issues.

God bless you as you teach your class this quarter.