

A Church that equips you to be “Faithful & Fruitful.”



In 1997, Steven Spielberg released a blockbuster movie entitled, *Close Encounters of The Third Kind*, a fictional tale of UFOs and a race of aliens that visit our planet, and of how mankind responds to them.

Scripture is full of other encounters -- ones that actually happened -- fresh encounters of the divine kind -- when God steps into our path and totally changes life as we knew it. He has done that throughout Scripture and He's still doing that today!

We've been looking at people like Moses...Peter, James, & John...Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego...and Mary...all who had a “fresh encounter of the divine kind.” They all had life-altering encounters with God. Have you had a FEOTDK? Has your life been radically changed, altered from the wayward path you were on?

This month we continue our look at these FEOTDK impacts in the life of Isaiah, Zacchaeus, Saul / Paul, and Jesus' disciples. Come learn with us and find the Lord in a fresh encounter!

Prayer Needs:

*Our Bible study leaders met recently and one large goal came from our leaders -- we need to...we must...grow our young adult age group, especially “young married with children” families. Be praying as to how you can help with this church goal.

*Our Associate Pastor of Worship & Administration Search Committee continues contacting and meeting with candidates. God has a perfect timing -- and the right man for us. Please pray.

*It's Back-2-School time! Please pray for our students, parents, faculty, and administration as a new school year begins. Pray for growth in our children's and youth areas, and for TJ in his student ministry, and Kaitlyn in her children's ministry here at FBCA.

Cutting It Straight:

So many love to quote Jer.29:11 as a promise and reminder of how much God loves us -- “*For I know the plans I have for you...plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*”

It's a great verse, however, don't forget to read on as to our response that is anticipated. God says we are to “*Call upon Me...come and pray to Me...seek Me and find Me...with all your heart...*” (Jer.29:12-13) Remember, His blessings call for our positive response to Him! That's what He values so much.

Pastor Wade

PROMOTION SUNDAY

SUNDAY AUGUST 13

TIME TO MOVE UP!

CHILDREN AGES 4 YRS OLD — 6TH GRADE WILL MOVE UP TO THE NEXT CLASS.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- **Aug 3-5** Equip Conf. Houston, TX
- **Aug 13** Promotion Sunday
- **Aug 17** AISD First Day of School
- **Aug 31** GCE Homeschool Coop First Day of Instruction
- **Sept 3** Youth Game Night

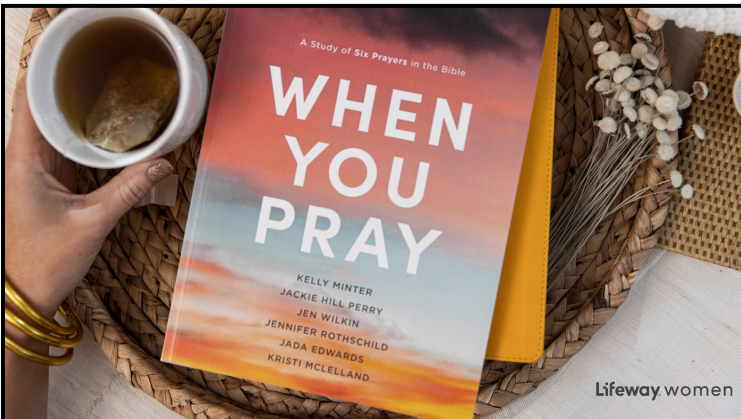
FINANCIAL UPDATE: (8/1/2023)

Current Checkbook Bal	\$115,750.79
-Designated Funds Bal.	\$13,307.00
<u>-Designated Repair Funds Bal.</u>	<u>\$25,129.45</u>
=Total Available Funds	\$77,314.34
2023 Total Giving Received	\$186,801.33
2023 Total Giving Needed	\$206,302.81



Hello FBCA, Most of you know me by now but I am Kaitlyn Calhoon, the new director of children's ministry and adult education. I look forward to getting to know all members of FBCA and I will try my best in discerning how I can best help you. My goal for the children's ministry here at FBCA is to ensure that all children whom come through the doors are safe and the gospel be presented to them through bible classes, worship, play care and love from teachers and volunteers, and through fellowship with the congregation as a whole. My goal for adult education is to help the leaders of bible study groups be equipped and supported so that they can execute fruitful and intentional studies that are teachings of God's Holy Word. My goal for all FBCA is to hold fast to our mission and vision and to help promote spiritual growth and physical growth within the church. I pray that God uses me as a vessel of His good work to further advance His Kingdom, and bless this church and its members. Please feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts or questions, or if you are at all interested in serving as a volunteer in one of our ministries.

— Kaitlyn Calhoon



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW MONDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY!

Facilitated by KayLynn Biggs.

KICK OFF is Monday, September, 11th at 10:30am

At First Baptist Church, Alvarado

"WHEN YOU PRAY" - A Study of Six Prayers in the Bible

Authors: Kelly Minter, Jen Wilkin, Jackie Hill Perry,

Jennifer Rothschild, Jada Edwards, and Kristi McClelland

7 Session Study with engaging homework in between.

Study Guides available for purchase for \$25.

Price includes a link code for your personal video access.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU!

FBCA

STUDENT MINISTRY

How lonely sits the city that once had many people! She has become like a widow who was once great among the nations! She, who was a princess among the provinces, has become a forced laborer!

Lamentations 1:1

This is the beginning of a very powerful chapter. Here, Jeremiah (who is assumed to be the author) is mourning the loss of his nation to captives. He is sad because the people of Israel (God's people) turned from him and didn't obey his commandments. Even though he knows God's judgment is sound and just, it doesn't make it any easier.

How can we bring that into our lives today? We know God's judgment is not something to take lightly, but we (or at least I) forget about it sometimes. We constantly preach about the love of God, which is the reason we can even have salvation, but we must also talk about his unwavering judgment. We shouldn't preach fire and brimstone. We should have a heart that mourns for the people whom God's judgment will be placed on.

This chapter is heart-breaking because you can hear the brokenness of the author. He is clearly crying over the loss of his nation but, more importantly, the fact that his people have seemed to turn their backs on God. The American church is in a similar predicament. We are at a crossroads for the nation. We must find the balance between preaching the Love of God and Judgement. We cannot and should not compromise, but we cannot resort to fear-mongering.

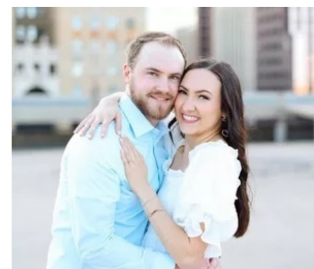
Just because God's judgment is sound and unwavering does not give us the license to hate people. We must love the person and point them to God. At the end of the chapter, the author does plead with God to deliver the nation from their captors even though he knows that the judgement placed on Israel needs to be fulfilled. He still wants his people to turn back to God. We must remember this for our own nation. It does not mean sitting on your hands and not doing anything. Go! Live for Christ, even when the world is against us and puts us down! When we can't do anything legally because we are silenced, we still mourn for the lost, mourn for the ones who have compromised their faith and witness, but most importantly, Praise God!

—TJ Arango, Associate Pastor of Students



JOIN US FOR A COUPLES SHOWER HONORING

TATUM & TYLER



Saturday, August 5, 2023

10am to Noon

1093 Imperial Eagle Rd. Alvarado

Registered at Amazon, Cabela's, Lowes, & Ace Homeplace

