

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST SUMTER

MARCH 2021

# **fbc connection**

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## **CURRENT SERMON SERIES**

### **FOLLOWING THE** HOW JESUS' LIFE REDEFINES OUR OWN **SERVANT KING**

**A Study of Mark's Gospel**

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## FEBRUARY 2021



Shortly after Laura's father retired from his career with the FAA, he was invited to join a group of men at First Presbyterian Church in Summerville, SC for a cup of coffee. He discovered that these men would meet weekly, drink coffee, share a few exaggerations about the fish that they had caught, and then reminisce about their time in the military. Then they would invest a few hours doing general maintenance around the church. It is amazing how that simple invitation has turned into many lifelong friendships. These men were able to profoundly link their service in the local church to the glory of God, and the church's ability to minister without distraction. In addition those friendships ended up being the launching pad for missions trips all over the world, and weekly double dates at a local Mexican restaurant.

There are a couple of takeaways from this testimony.

#1 Investing time and energy into one's church produces a sense of pride and excitement about the future.

#2 Sometimes the best friendships are formed when we work together for a common goal.

The design God had for the development of the church was really a great idea! When we read about the early church sharing, "and holding all things in common", it is really a call for us to live in community, sharing a common passion! Painting a wall or cleaning out a flowerbed, when done in community for the purpose of creating a place and atmosphere that is inviting for gospel proclamation is certainly a reflection of a shared passion!

On March 20th, we are going to have an opportunity at First Baptist Church to have a church workday. Some of our men have volunteered to barbecue a pig, and our property committee has come up with an extensive list of projects that desperately need to be done (a list will be published soon). We would invite you to come and join us. It is likely that you will make some new friends, and develop deeper roots in some friendships that you already have. And just maybe you will have an opportunity through your investment to see an excitement begin to form about what God is doing now and will do in the future through our community of believers. I hope to see you on the 20th!

Dan





First Baptist  
SUMTER

## 2021 D-GROUPS

In 2021, we are focusing on reading God's Word, applying it to our lives, and praying together in community.

Our 2021 discipleship groups are off and running! Most groups have worked through the first few weeks in their journals and are continuing to read God's Word every day!

We currently have right at 160 people participating in a discipleship group at FBC! Think of what God will do as 160 of us read the entirety of God's Word this year, hide it in our hearts, apply it to our daily lives, and pray for one another and lostness around us for a year. I am fully expecting God to do some incredible things in the life of our church and through the life of our church in the community in 2021.

The process we are following in our journals is purposely repetitive. This journal is meant to help teach someone how to read God's Word devotionally each and every day.

We ask four questions of the text:

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
2. What does this passage teach about God?
3. What does this passage teach us about man?
4. How does this passage point us to Christ?

These four questions help us to examine and understand each and every passage that we read. These questions are devotional in nature, and help us to come to God's Word each day with the proper lens.

We then ask applicational questions of the text:

- Is there a truth you need to believe?
- Is there a sin you need to confess and turn from?
- Is there a habit taught that you need to begin?

Lastly, we identify who needs to hear what we are learning. These people might change depending on the topic of the passage, but we are always called not just to gather information for ourselves, but as Christ followers take what we have seen in God's Word and share it with others.

Our hope in doing this is that our knowledge of the Bible grows. As our knowledge grows, this should grow our faith in God and His perfect Word. As faith grows, our character (who we are on the inside) begins to change. We begin to hate sin and love holiness as we kill those sins and pursue holiness in Christ.

Lastly, as our character changes, our outward actions then begin to change. This is the pattern for growth in the Christian life, and we hope what we all experience through discipleship in 2021.

Hebrews 4 tells us that God's Word is living and active – it is moving and working in people's hearts and lives as they turn to it.

Isaiah 40 reminds us that God's Word will stand forever. This is a book worth pouring our lives into.

And Psalm 119 promises that God's Word will be a light to our path and a lamp for our feet to see where we are headed.

Let's trust God and His perfect Word to do in our lives what it promises that it will – shape and mold us into the image of Jesus!

### It's not too late to sign up for a D-group!

- Go to [fbcsunmer.org](http://fbcsunmer.org) and hover on the ministries tab
- When the menu appears, click adults
- At the top of that page click "Get connected to a D-Group"
- Fill out the form and click "submit"
- You will hear from a group leader shortly after submitting that form

The graphic features a central white rectangular box containing text, set against a background of large, flowing, organic shapes in shades of teal and orange. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font.

# **CHRIST IS RISEN**

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**Easter Sunday, April 4th  
Service Times:**

**8:30 a.m. - First Service  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. - Second Service**



From the Hansards...

"I thank God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart"

These words from Philippians 1:3-7 express how we, Jeremy, Cindy, Jenna and Jillian, feel towards you, First Baptist Sumter. The writer, Paul, wrote this letter to the church family in Philippi over two thousand years ago, but it conveys perfectly our gratitude towards you, and our desire to join with you in worshiping our great God and spreading the good news of Jesus.

These last few months have been a whirlwind for us. At the end of last October, I (Jeremy) tore my Achilles' tendon. About a week after that was when I talked to Allen Lowe about his leaving Sumter, and that same day texted with Pastor Dan about getting together to talk. This was the beginning of God calling ("bob white!..." Ha!) Just a few weeks later, our oldest daughter, Julie, got married to a wonderful man named Ben. Two days after the wedding, I had surgery to repair my Achilles tendon - having to be "put under" and intubated to get the job done. Then came the recovery time and several more meetings with Pastor Dan, the staff and committees. We came to First Baptist "in view of a call" on December 27, 2020, and you, as a church, affirmed that this was where God wanted us to be.

January and February have had a series of events that show evidence of God's hand in our lives and His provision for us. We sold our home in Lexington - it was on the market a total of one day! Then, with the help of Millie Welch, we found a home perfect for our family here in Sumter. In the midst of all the details of selling and buying homes, Covid invaded our family. But God was even in those details! All of the inspections and fixes and people having to come in to our home finished up before we had to quarantine. God's timing is perfect!

And now we're finally here!

You, our church family, have overwhelmed us with kindness, helped us with moving in, and been extra generous in so many ways. Getting to know the staff has been a complete joy. Then there's the fun of getting to know (and in a lot of cases, reconnect) with the people involved in the music ministry. We are so blessed here!

I am excited to sing and make music to our Savior with all of you. Hopefully, we are nearing the end of this pandemic, and I am looking forward to bringing back the choir!

I have great appreciation for those who have continued to lead our church in worship throughout this Covid season. And I am very grateful to Casey Gooch and all who joined her in leading during the interim. They have hearts that long for Jesus, and they love to see His name lifted high.

So, the bottom line is this - GOD IS GOOD! And the Hansards are grateful for His leadership and for our First Baptist Sumter church family.

Singing His Song,  
Jeremy, Cindy, Jenna and Jillian



# TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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*FBC has exceeded  
our \$100,000  
Lottie Moon Missions goal!*

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*Thank you for giving  
\$110,002 this year!*





## **Resumes March 7th**

**10:15am 1st & 2nd grade Activities Room**

Contact Lisa to volunteer  
[landrews@fbcsumter.org](mailto:landrews@fbcsumter.org)

Join us Easter Sunday  
for doughnuts &

## **FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT**

04 · 04 · 2021 · 8:30 AM

Please drop off candy donations at the  
check-in desk by Sunday, March 28th

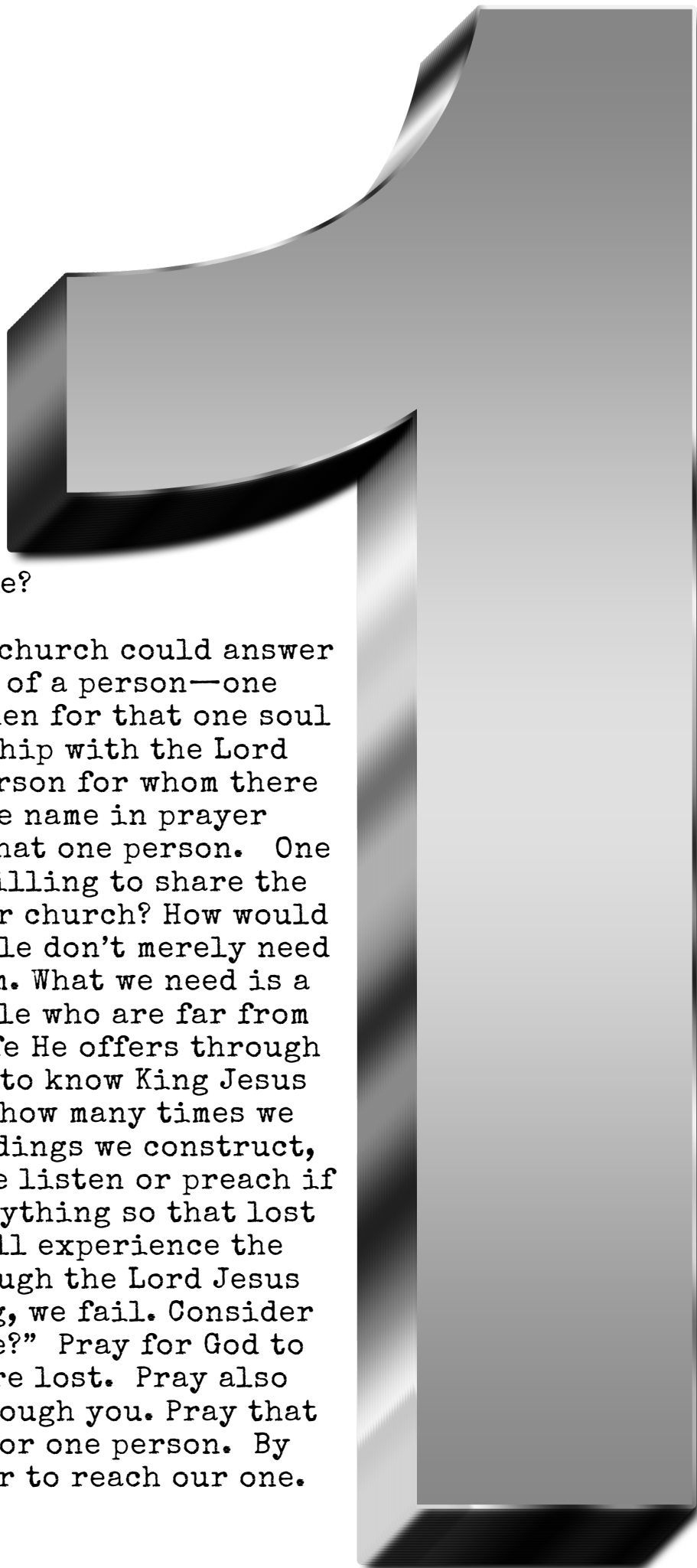


First Baptist Church Sumter

# SAVE THE DATE VBS 2021



August 2nd-6th  
More details to come!



### Who's Your One?

Imagine if every member of our church could answer that question with the name of a person—one person for whom there is a burden for that one soul to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. One name of a person for whom there is heart cry to lift that one name in prayer pleading for the Lord to save that one person. One name with whom we would be willing to share the Gospel. How would it change our church? How would it change the world? God's people don't merely need another method for evangelism. What we need is a white-hot passion to see people who are far from God's experience of the new life He offers through the Lord Jesus Christ to come to know King Jesus personally. It doesn't matter how many times we come to church, how many buildings we construct, churches we plant or sermons we listen or preach if we're not intent on doing everything so that lost men, women, and children will experience the transforming work of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that one thing, we fail. Consider that question, "Who's Your One?" Pray for God to use you to reach those who are lost. Pray also about what God wants to do through you. Pray that God will burden your heart for one person. By God's grace, we can all partner to reach our one.

Pastor Bob

**Sign-ups for summer camp 2021 are officially underway!**

To Register:

[www.fbcsumter.org](http://www.fbcsumter.org) and click the “events tab” and then click “summer camp 2021” and fill out the form.

# SUMMER CAMP 2021

WHERE? CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

WHEN? JUNE 14-18

HOW MUCH? \$275 FULL PRICE

- BEFORE MARCH 1: \$225
- 3/2-4/1: \$250
- 4/2-5/1: \$260
- 5/2-5/17: \$275
- \$10 DISCOUNT EACH FOR SIBLINGS
- \$10 DISCOUNT EACH IF YOU INVITE A FRIEND THAT SIGNS UP (\$20 LIMIT)

**MAY 17 REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
**INVITE SOMEONE!**