

February
2019

HARVEST MONTHLY

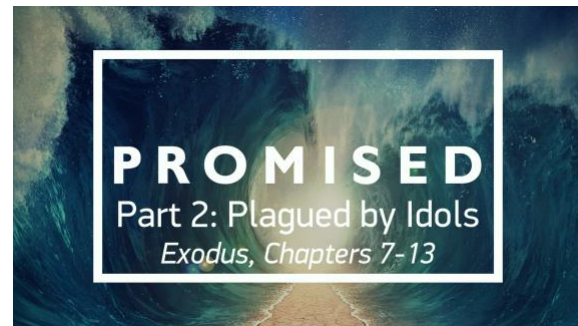
EVERY
SUN

PRAYER MEETING @ 9:30a

Join us in the Worship Center
before the service to ask God to
reveal His power through worship.

WORSHIP SERVICE
@ 10a

Current
Series



EVERY
WEEK

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays at Harvest @ 10a

Just Moved Ministry

Breath of God (Beth Moore)

Mondays at Harvest @ 7p

Esther Study

EVERY
SAT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ 7:30a

Meets at Harvest Café in the
church lobby. Doors open at
7a, study begins at 7:30a. All
men are cordially invited to
join us.

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MAR
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meet

New here? Come to a party at
the pastor's house at 7p for
coffee, dessert, and fellowship
with Harvest leaders!

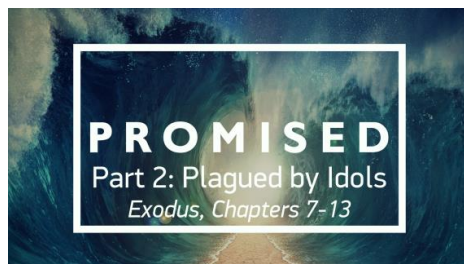


YOU ARE
LOVED

Preaching Schedule

New Series: **Plagued by Idols**

Why did God send the judgment of ten plagues on Egypt? The answer in one word is: Idolatry! Sadly, the people of God became corrupted by the sinful culture of their rulers as well. Does it sound familiar? Let's learn from God's dealing with the idols of Egypt and become equipped to deal with the idols found in our culture.



January 27

Not Too Hapi

Exodus 7:14-25

February 3 (Communion)

What the Heget

Exodus 8:1-5

February 10

You Are Really Bugging Me

Exodus 8:16-31

February 17

My (Live)Stocks Are Down!

Exodus 9:1-7

February 24

Isis in Crisis

Exodus 9:8-12

March 3 (Communion)

Are You Nut's?

Exodus 9:13-35



Listen to messages during the week at
<http://harveststlouis.org/sermons>

Idols of the Heart

Idolatry is one of the most abhorrent sins to God. In one way, this sin is more serious than murder, adultery or any other sin humanity is guilty of. Why? Because idolatry, at its core, is the sin of disbelief by which something else – and idol – overtakes the throne deep inside the heart where Christ alone is to be the Lord and King. Jesus said, *"I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."* God is offended by our willingness to compromise His exclusive place of residence thus offering Him a status of a roommate to other entities happily enthroned in the heart.

In the Book of Exodus, six chapters are devoted to God's judgment of the Egyptian's idolatry. God sent ten progressively devastating plagues. His intent, however, was not just to punish the Egyptian slave masters, it was also to rescue His own people from the oppression of these idols they served. God saw that His people had become just as corrupt as the Egyptians. The culture of the enemy has infiltrated God's camp. The same thing can happen to believers today – that's why we must study Exodus carefully and learn from steps God's people took in the past.

The ten plagues represent the totality of the corruption. As a counterpart, God gave His people the Ten Commandments, representing the totality of God's moral law. And yet, do you remember what happened? Just as soon as they received the holy commandments, they made an idol, a golden calf, and worshipped it, so deep was the enemy's culture engrained in them. Yet, the loving Father kept chasing them, as Nehemiah recalls, *"Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies, you in your great mercies did not forsake them"* (Nehemiah 9:18-19).

Here is the thing about idols: they are not just the usurpers of God's glory, but also have a profound influence on our spiritual foundation. Jesus died for our sins so that we can be remade in the image of God through Him. Satan, however, uses idolatry to shape a person into the image of the idol. The Word of God says, *"The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them and so do all who trust in them."* (Psalm 135:15-18).

Every culture has its idols. I guess modern-day Protestants don't bow down to or worship images made by human hands, but through an honest heart check, we may find all kinds of idols creeping in or already enthroned and usurping God's sovereignty within. Have you ever met any Christians plagued by the idol of prosperity, materialism, selfishness, false doctrine or piety? Unfortunately, there are plenty of those around. Sadly, the church often tolerates this form of evil for fear of losing their members.

Let's dig deeper and use this study to cleanse the throne of Christ within our hearts of any undesired competition. The Lord did not give up on the Israelites, how much more will He not give up on those who confess Christ.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our...

Written by Steve Reischl



What are some intentional ways you can show Christ's love this month?

1) It's snow season! Hopefully we won't get another 10-12 inch storm, but snowy weather is the perfect time to love your neighbors! Grab your kids and a couple \$10 shovels from Wal-Mart and surprise your neighbors with a clean, shoveled driveway the morning after our next snow storm!

2) Whether it be a close friend, your children, a teacher, or a mentor in your life, take 5 minutes and write a note of gratitude to someone who God has used to impact your life! This could be especially meaningful for someone who might find Valentine's Day to be particularly tough, like a widow/widower or a recently single parent.

If you are interested in serving on the Worship or Tech Teams on Sunday morning, please shoot me an email! We are so excited to continue to grow our Worship and Teach Teams over the next few months, so now is the perfect time to start serving!

Happy February! Can you believe it's February already? I don't know about you, but I think it's absolutely hilarious that not even 2-3 days after Christmas, Wal-Mart and Target start putting out decorations and trinkets for the next big commercialized holiday – you guessed it: Valentine's Day! Isn't it interesting how the way God defines love is so different than our culture? In our culture, love is often interchangeable with happiness – whether it's romantic relationships or friendships, loving someone should make you happy. Let's look at what God says about the real meaning of love:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Do you see happiness mentioned anywhere in that passage? I don't! I'll be honest though, sometimes I wish it did! It would be nice if loving our children, spouses, and friends always made us happy, but we know that's not true. According to God's definition of love, love is patient. It is kind. It's not resentful or bitter. It endures all things. It's sacrificial.

I don't know about you, but sometimes doing those things doesn't make me happy! Being patient with my kids when they spill syrup on the floor for the 18th time doesn't necessarily make me happy. Being kind to a grumpy neighbor doesn't make me happy. To the left of this passage, I mention shoveling the drive-way for a neighbor. That doesn't always make me happy; it makes me sweaty and tired!

So why does God define love this way? Because no matter who God has called us to love, real, lasting, God-honoring love reflects the work Christ did on the cross. When we mirror to those around us how Christ loved us, we no longer settle for temporary and fleeting happiness. Rather, we emulate enduring love that, instead of pointing to our own selfish desires, points to the eternal love portrayed through Christ's death and resurrection. On the cross and in His ministry on earth, Jesus was patient, kind, humble, and truthful. When we mirror this to our friends, children, spouses, and coworkers, we mirror the ministry of Jesus. And in doing so, we allow Christ the opportunity to transform our relationships to be deeper and more glorifying to Him.

If you're struggling in a relationship with a friend, co-worker, spouse, or anyone, consider examining the root of what you're seeking in that relationship. Is it your happiness? Or is it rather the opportunity to reflect Jesus to that person by loving them the way Christ loved you? In no way does this make loving that person easier, but perhaps it might refocus our attention not on ourselves, that person, or the difficult or hurtful things they do, but rather on our God, our creator, and our Father who has perfectly loved us.



Jesus Welcomed the Children

Written by Terri Shukri

He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcome me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9: 36-37

Jesus taught the disciples to welcome children. This was not the normal way of thinking in a society where children were usually treated as second-class citizens. As such, children's ministries in church should not be regarded as less important than those for adults.

On a personal note, I came to know Jesus at the age of six. Many believed that it was too early and I didn't know what I was doing at that early age, but I remember distinctly when Jesus came into my heart! Jesus' love was taught in my home, but it also came from Sunday after Sunday in church. I remember my teachers in church, including my nursery teacher, Mrs. Banks, teaching me the love of God week in and week out. Our children are never too young to hear about Jesus' love whether it is through a song, a Bible verse, a game or just a loving smile.

You can expect to be blessed.

I was truly blessed to witness the Kee family working in Harvest Kids last month. They were not there to give me a blessing; they were being obedient by serving. And even then, the Kee family claims to be the ones who received the blessings by being with your children!

As of the last week in January, we no longer have teachers, leaders, or helpers for **three** of the Sunday mornings in a month in our lower elementary or upper elementary classes. The more parents and volunteers we have, the less often you will need to serve. My goal is to set up a six-week rotation so we all get to go to service and worship more often.

You may not think you would like a position in Harvest Kids and if you don't like the position you take, we can help you find a better position more suited for you. But give it a try. We need you! If your heart is being touched, please contact me at the email above. Our children are the future of the church, and they also need to be told those three words we always say at Harvest: You. Are. Loved!



Our Students are Serving!

Our Harvest Students are a valuable demographic at Harvest Bible Chapel St. Louis for many reasons: they offer a fresh perspective on life that other age groups may not see, they contribute a feeling of energy, and, frankly, they make Harvest more fun! But one of the more important things about the students in our Harvest Students ministry is their love for and willingness to **serve!** Whether it's in Harvest Kids, the Worship Production Team, or taking photos during the service, our students are absolutely living out our 4 Ws by Working for Christ!

Thank you, Students, for being an example for the rest of the church and stepping up as servants. You are so loved!



Introducing William Wilson!



After several months of waiting, praying and screening through over seventy resumes and applications, the Lord brought us to the end of the search for our new Director of Harvest Family Ministries. William Wilson is moving all the way from West Virginia to be with us at Harvest!

William began following the Lord Jesus Christ when he was eight years old. He was a lone soldier in the faith in his family, and his life as a child and teenager was filled with all kinds of dramatic experiences, many of those no child should live through.

William's parents passed on before he graduated from high school. He took a year off school to take care of his younger brother and yet somehow managed to graduate on top with a number of AP courses in his pocket. He enrolled at Liberty University and graduated in 2018 with a degree in Western Legal Traditions. William's choice to study both law and ministry is due to his great compassion for children and youth while he himself had grown up under challenging circumstances. He hopes that he can equip himself to help the less fortunate in the spirit of Proverbs 31:8-9 and make a difference in the lives of kids and students.

Despite his young age, William comes to us with abundance of experience. During college, he worked with youth in three churches as a student director. He is also no stranger to Missouri. After graduating from LU, he was on staff for a year in Warrenton, MO working for the Children's Evangelism Fellowship, a national organization he has been with since his young teenage years running summer camps, five-day clubs and training events to reach children for Jesus Christ. He is a gifted teacher, compassionate shepherd, and genuine young man with a lot of energy and great ideas.

William will be our full-time Director of Family Ministries – he will be the leader for both Harvest Kids and Harvest Students. We hope to keep our current Interim Director of Harvest Kids, Terri Shukri, on staff working with William as the part-time assistant for the children's ministry.

We are excited to welcome William to our Harvest Family. We have a plan in place to help him to gradually assume full leadership responsibility for all family ministries, and we look forward to ordaining him as Pastor within one year. We hope that all adults (especially parents) will come alongside our new leader, join his disciple-making team, and work together to build a Christ-centered and Spirit-filled family ministry at Harvest St. Louis West.

Friendships That Last

Written by: Heidi Brooks

How is Small Group Time Spent?

- **Gathering Time**
(approximately 15 min)
- **Bible Study Time**
(approximately 45 min)
- **Mutual Ministry / Accountability Time**
(approximately 45 min)
- **Fellowship Time**
(approximately 15 min)

To right: Theodore & Heidi Brooks and Carol & Roger Bryan

We were blessed to be loved by Carol in a small group together and to have her teach our children through the Harvest Kids ministry. A few years ago, Carol and Roger moved to Kansas City to be closer to one of their children and four of their grandchildren. This weekend, we had the opportunity to see our sweet friend, who opened up her home while we traveled to Kansas City for a wrestling tournament for our son. Whether people are in the same group or have to physically separate due to multiplication or geographical relocation, the Lord remains the center of the relationship and the friendships live on. What a blessing!!!



The reason Carol felt this calling was that she is married to a wonderful and loving man who is an unbeliever... but to this day, she continues to pray for her husband Roger's salvation. She recognized that there were other women in the same situation and called them together to study God's Word intensely through the Precepts studies and to pray fervently for these men.

A Word from Carol:

Carol asked us to share: "Please let everyone know how much I love and miss every one of you! 'You are loved' is not just a platitude..." She then continued with the following scripture as an encouragement to all of us.

"The love of Christ has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:5

Next Steps

“...the wisdom of this world is folly with God.” -1 Cor. 3:19a

We all have needed or will need counsel at some point in our life. We generously offer an initial consultation for most directional and corrective issues free of charge. Contact Jennifer Schumacher for more information on receiving counsel or how to become a BSC Counselor.

Types of Issues We Help With:

- Addiction
- Anger
- Anxiety/Worry/Fear
- Cutting
- Depression
- Marriage conflict/issues
- Eating Disorders



How is Biblical Soul Care Different from Other Counseling?

Written by Jennifer Schumacher

There are 3 general forms of counseling: Traditional (Secular) Psychology Counsel, Integrated Counseling, and Biblical Counseling.

Traditional Psychology bases counsel from over 200 different teachings such as Freudian Psychoanalysis, Skinner’s Behavioral Modification, Rogerian Reflection, Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, etc. Sometimes a combination of methods is used. It is important to note most of the founders of psychology were atheists who attempted to replace religion with human reason.

Psychology excels at observing human behavior but falls short in interpreting those behaviors and offering solutions because they turn to human reason for answers. Psychology can identify and describe common human patterns and responses, but the interpretation is influenced by non-Christian thought and the teaching of Evolution.

Integrated Counseling attempts to combine traditional psychology with Christian principals.

Biblical Counseling is founded in the belief that God is the Creator of all things and the solution to man’s brokenness and how to live a full and abundant life is only found in His Word (2 Peter 1:3). A Biblical Counselor is dependent solely on the Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

At Harvest we embrace Biblical Soul Care (BSC) as an alternative to the world's view of counseling, a care anchored in God's Word, dependent on the Power of the Holy Spirit, and practiced in a community of faith. Biblical Soul Care addresses the problem of human suffering by teaching us to observe all that Jesus commanded (Matt 28:18-20), empowering us to glorify God in all circumstances (1 Peter 5:6-11), and assisting in the pursuit of the resemblance of Christ (2 Cor 3:18).

Secular Counseling	Biblical Counseling
Authority is man’s word	Authority is God’s word (Joshua 1:8)
Man is the focal point – his needs/feelings are top concern	God is focal point – His commands are top concern (Matt 6:33)
Man is able to dig deep enough to know how to fix himself/herself	Only God is all knowing (Rev 1:8)
Man is not fully responsible for behavior	Man is fully responsible for sin and disobedience (Romans 1:18-23)
Man is essentially good	Man is sinful and guilty before God (Romans 3:23)

Ladies' Bible Studies

Mondays @ 7p

Esther

For more information or to sign-up, contact Jennifer Schumacher at
jschumacher@harveststlouis.org

Thursdays @ 10a

Come at 9:30am for fellowship, prayer, & praise!

Current study options:

After the Boxes are Unpacked

For those who have recently moved or are going through some other major life change. For more information or go sign-up, contact Debbie Breneman at
dbreneman@harveststlouis.org

Breath: The Spirit of God in Us

A study by Beth Moore on the power of the Holy Spirit. For more information or to sign-up, contact Mary Jo Stralka at
marystralka@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Beth Moore Living Proof Live

March 29-30
Memphis, TN (overnight trip)



Lowest pricing now! Reserve your early bird tickets at the ministry center. For more information, contact Debbie Breneman at
dbreneman@harveststlouis.org.

Heartbreak

Written by Debbie Breneman

February is a time for thinking of love and romance, valentines, and hearts, even sometimes broken ones. I want to challenge you to think about what breaks your heart because in doing that you may just find your purpose.

Have you ever found the following questions running through your mind: "What should I do with my life?" "Am I fulfilling God's call or plan for my life?" "I'm really busy, my days are full," or "Does all of my work really matter for eternity?" You may have found yourself asking questions such as these at one time or another; I know I have. These questions can actually be good if they cause us to reflect, evaluate, and, if necessary, course correct and redirect ourselves to what God has for us TODAY.

God's will for us is no mystery. It is very clear in His Word that we are to go forth and make disciples. That means we FIRST OF ALL need to be sure we have a faith to share, and then SECOND OF ALL we need to share it. Sounds pretty simple, right? How does that play out in our day-to-day, go to work, clean the house, love our family and friends existence? There are so many aspects of this subject to hit on, but for this month, I want to focus on our hearts.

What breaks your heart? What makes you pound the table, exclaim "how can this be?" "Boy, if I could change ONE thing about the world, this would be it!" Is it poverty or injustice, mental illness, loneliness and despair? Is it children without basic care and love? Something else?

If the God who created you put it on your heart, He put it there for a reason. Perhaps that is your purpose... Let's talk about that.

You are LOVED!

Hey, Men: Valentine's Day is Coming!

Here is your gift idea! (Hint, Hint)

We have made it easy for you to show some love to your sweetie this Valentine's Day! **Send her on an overnight trip with Harvest Women to Living Proof Live in Memphis, March 29-30.** For your \$75 purchase, she will receive a beautiful gift box with a ticket to the event, a gift card for lunch on the return trip, and other goodies. What a great Valentine's Day gift! Reserve one for a lady in your life at the Ministry Table. Gifts will be available for pick-up at the Women's Ministry table on February 10th.

Join us every week!

Men's Bible Study

Saturdays @ 7:30a
Harvest Café

The Men's Bible study is led by Buz Phelan and meets every Saturday in the Harvest Café. Doors open at 7:00 am and the study begins promptly at 7:30 and ends [around] 8:30 am ;)

**Be watchful, stand firm
in the faith, act like
men, be strong. Let all
that you do be done in
love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Why Men's Ministry?

Written by Buz Phelan

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. — 1 Timothy 6:11-12

It's pretty simple, really: men need each other. Iron sharpens iron, as scripture says, but how often do we really take the time to invest in growing these relationships or strengthening the bonds of brotherhood in Christ and Christian fellowship? The popular culture would have you believe that being a man is "toxic" or needs to be changed into something less masculine.

God's idea of Biblical manhood is servant leadership. Let me say that again – **servant** leadership. A servant is not greater than his master and husbands are not greater than their wives. God made us to need each other and serve each other. The goal of the men's ministry at Harvest is to disciple and grow mature followers of Christ who can lead and serve their wives and families into the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This doesn't happen overnight, but over time. Shared experiences, fellowship, studying God's Word, serving at church, prayer and so much more help to build the necessary bonds that God desires for us to have with our brothers in Christ. When you finally experience all that God has designed for you to experience as a man, you may find yourself wondering why you took so long to do it. Stop living beneath your privilege and get involved today.

You are Loved!



Stewardship Report		
January 2019		
	Actual	Budget
Week 1	6,133	8,828
Week 2	1,491	8,828
Week 3	9,543	8,828
Week 4	3,948	8,828
Total	21,115	35,312



OUR FOUR PILLARS

1 UNAPOLOGETIC PROCLAMATION

Proclaiming the authority of God's Word without apology.
2 Timothy 4:2 | Hebrews 4:12

2 CHRIST-CENTERED WORSHIP

Lifting high the name of Jesus through worship.
John 4:24 | John 12:32

3 CONFIDENT PRAYER

Believing firmly in the power of prayer.
Ephesians 6:18 | Hebrews 4:16

4 FEARLESS SHARING

Sharing the good news of Jesus with boldness.
Ephesians 6:19 | Romans 1:16



OUR MISSION

The Church exists to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission, in the spirit of the Great Commandment.
Matthew 28:19-20; 22:37-39



OUR ELDERS

Michael Šust | Pastor

Mark Hohenstein | Elder Chairman

Lou Stralka | Elder

Mike Breneman | Elder



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