

March  
2019

# HARVEST MONTHLY

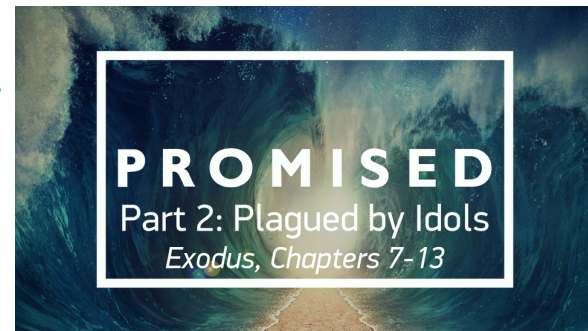
EVERY  
SUN

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.

1

FRI



8

FRI



17

SUN



29-30

FRI-SAT



APR

6



APR

19



## Preaching Schedule

The “Ten Plagues” in Exodus 7-13 reveal God’s way of dealing with the real plague of ancient Egypt – idols. This study is designed to equip followers of Jesus Christ to deal with the idols that plague our culture today.



**March 3**

**Are You Nut’s?**

Exodus 9:13-35

**March 10** (Communion)

**Let Your “Yes” Be “Yes”**

Exodus 10:1-20

**March 17**

**Lights Out**

Exodus 10:21-29

**March 24**

**The Final Warning**

Exodus 11:1-10

**March 31** (Communion)

**The God Who Lost His Son**

Exodus 12:1-32



Listen to messages during the week at [harveststlouis.org/sermons](http://harveststlouis.org/sermons)

## What Comes Before A Fall?

The traditional answer to the above question is: pride. It seems that a month does not go by without hearing a news story about another church leader who somehow disqualified himself from ministry leadership. With that the public image of the church of Jesus Christ is constantly dragged through the mud. Let’s face it, the many great stories of Christian love, success, and eternal impact of the gospel seldom make the front page.

How can we help? Is there anything the Christian Family can do to help to prevent church leadership failure from happening? Does the Bible give us any hints to look for when someone is on the brink?

Moral failing is ultimately a betrayal of Jesus. It is a denial of His dominion over one’s life. Before Peter betrayed and denied Jesus, several things could be observed in his behavior that led up to his fall. Here are some of them:



**Overconfidence** – This can happen to others, but not me... *Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”* (Luke 22:33-34). Leaders who think they are exempt from common temptation are like a child playing on the edge of a cliff.

**Absence of prayer** – We are at war! The enemy is constantly looking for a weakness to exploit. A prayerless Christian is like a soldier that falls asleep during the first watch.

*And (Jesus) said to Peter, “Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”* (Matthew 26:40-41).

**Fear of man** – One of the snares of the enemy is our desire to be liked or approved by others. When Peter was put on the spot to affirm his allegiance to Jesus he gave in with fear and “*began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.”* (Mark 14:71).

**Lying** – The dictionary defines lying as “an assertion of reality known to be false for the purpose of deception.” Sometimes we repeat a lie to convince ourselves that the outcome we desire is true, but in reality, it is not. Peter denied Jesus three times before he realized his wrong. When his self-deception was finally over, “*he went out and wept bitterly.*” (Luke 22:62).

It takes a great deal humility for any person, especially a leader to receive an admonition when walking too close to the edge of a cliff. May we have ears to listen and hearts to trust others when we can’t see it personally.



## *What are some practical ways to overcome the pain of disappointment?*

- 1) *Start journaling your gratitude.*  
Every morning, wake up and write down 3 specific things you are grateful for that day.

*Gratitude helps us view the pain of what we've lost through the lens of the blessings God has given us.*

- 2) *Reach out. We were not meant to live life alone! If you are not in a small group yet, get in a group! Allow your brothers and sisters in Christ to help carry your burdens and pain! If you are in a group, challenge yourself to be vulnerable and open up about where you are struggling!*

*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!*

## When Things Don't Go Our Way

*Written by Steve Reischl*

Have you ever wanted something really bad? Like *really* bad? Some of our wants are silly (I really want a new washing machine!), and some of them are more serious. While we all have silly or practical wants, most of us are longing and wanting more deeply for sicknesses to be healed, relationships to be restored, jobs to be saved, children to be protected, finances to be rescued, etc. When our wanting and longing for these things presses on, we, as we should, turn to God and ask for His provision and blessing for these things to come about. We pray and we pray and we pray, but have you ever felt the pain and doubt of feeling that after all of your prayers, God is just saying, *no*? Or maybe even worse, you feel like God is just not listening?

As we think about this, I want to turn our attention to the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were being sentenced by an ungodly king to death in a fiery furnace for refusing to worship a false god. Look at their response to their punishment below:

***"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."***

***Daniel 3:17-18***

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were then thrown into the fiery furnace, and, by God's miraculous provision, they walked out without a hair on their head being singed. They were rescued!

I don't know about you, but sometimes stories like this one are hard for me to read, honestly. I think about how God did this miraculous work in their lives and why sometimes it feels like God *hasn't* done that in mine. Do I not have enough faith? Does God not love me enough? Why can't God provide the same deliverance in my life as he did in theirs?

That's when I come back to that easily missed phrase from Daniel 3 that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego proclaimed, *"even if he does not."* They knew God was capable of delivering them, but their faith and belief was **not** attached to the outcome. I think a lot of times we doubt God because we are evaluating His faithfulness based on the outcome we perceive to be the best, the most righteous, and the most just. Then when that outcome doesn't work out like we hoped, we shake our fists at God and say "Why didn't you deliver me?"

Here's the thing: God's faithfulness is so far beyond our human minds. His plans are so much better than we could ask or imagine. Trusting God doesn't mean we trust He will deliver what we think is best, it means we trust that He knows what is best and will never fail to deliver it.

At times in my life when I am praying desperately for something, I remind myself not to pray only for a specific outcome (although I think it's ok to ask God for our the desires of our heart!), but rather try to pray more boldly that I would have the faith to trust that whatever outcome He provides is what's best for me.



## *Harvest Kids Still Has Needs!*

1) The Nursery only has one worker in the classroom each Sunday. Keeping with our policies we need one more person each Sunday of the month. Please, prayerfully consider one or more Sundays a month in the Nursery.

2) We have a need for volunteers the first and second Sunday in our Toddler room (2 and 3 year olds). What a fun room! Really! These positions are as an assistant to the lead teacher. According to our policies we need two adults in this room each week for the safety of our little ones, our teachers and our church. Just one more security measure for our little ones.

## Impress Them On Your Children

*Written by Terri Shukri*

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.”**

**Deuteronomy 6:5-7**

When we tell stories, sing songs, or even when we do coloring pages in Harvest Kids, we are impressing God’s commandments on our/your children. Over the next 4 weeks, we are continuing the series called Dangerous Journey. Paul’s journey (Acts 27:1-28:16), Naaman’s Journey (2 Kings 5), Naomi’s Journey (Ruth 1-4) and Jonathan’s Journey (1 Samuel 19-20) will complete this series in the following weeks. The main theme throughout this eleven-week study is teaching that when we do what God wants us to do and listen to God’s will for our lives, He is with us on all the Dangerous Journeys we all face in life.

While preparing lessons for this series, I have learned so many things that I didn’t know about these individuals in the Bible. It just goes to show that you are never too young or too old to learn of God’s love for His people. I invite you to come for a visit one Sunday. No commitment – just a visit. Come watch the love God has for us and how it shows up in the classrooms of Harvest Kids. I guarantee you will be blessed by what you see!

## Save the Date!

Teacher training is coming up on the Church Work Day, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We will participate in the Work Day and then have teacher training and planning after the provided pizza lunch. All Harvest Kids workers and parents are welcome!





## How Can I Get Involved?

- Reach out to Theodore &/or Heidi Brooks  
[tbrooks@harveststlouis.org](mailto:tbrooks@harveststlouis.org)  
 or  
[hbrooks@harveststlouis.org](mailto:hbrooks@harveststlouis.org)
- Reach out to an existing small group leader
- Communicate your desire via the Friendship Register
- Ask someone at the Welcome Desk to connect you with a small group leader



Common reasons people say that small groups are not for them:

- Fear of being truly known
- Schedule is too busy
- Inconvenient location
- Accountability is uncomfortable
- I have “enough” friends

## The Case for Small Groups

Written by: Theodore & Heidi Brooks

God designed it this way. Yes – He designed it so that we would do life together. It started with Adam and Eve. It continued throughout history and especially through the early church. It has continued to this day. In fact, His Word exhorts us to do it.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all them ore as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

So, if you’re not involved in a small group at Harvest yet, we encourage you to ask yourself, “Why?” Is it fear of being truly known? Is it thinking your schedule is too busy to take on “one more thing?” Is the location inconvenient? Is it that the thought of being held accountable makes you uncomfortable? Do you feel you have too many friends already?

Testimony after testimony has demonstrated that the love offered and received through Harvest small groups – that feeling of being truly “known” – has been unparalleled. These groups become your family. And especially for those who do not have a close-knit or geographically close family, they become a lifeline.

We are all “busy”. And it’s easy to say adding “one more thing” just can’t be done. Trust us – we understand! We’d just encourage you to take a look at your calendar and challenge it by looking at how you are investing your time. Is it in things of this world that will fade away? Or is it in growing closer to the Lord, His church, being in His Word and walking in His way? If a small group location seems inconvenient, feel free to check out another. We have a number of different groups that meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and are happy to help you find one that may work better for you. If you are worried about accountability, read the Harvest monthly contribution by Robert & Maureen Day last month. That is what it’s all about – doing life TOGETHER! Just like your calendar, take a look at your friend group. Are these people who are challenging you to be more like Jesus each and every day? You may need more of those type of friends in your sphere of influence.

## Did You Know (From our Website)?

Discipleship is to be worked out together in ministry to one another and with one another. Our aim is to package and give away ministry to every faithful follower to provide shepherding care for the entire congregation (Ephesians 4:11-12). When all disciples use their God-given spiritual gifts to provide mutual ministry, the result is a vibrant and strong local church where everyone is cared for.

Our primary means to develop these gifts, and to build up and serve one another is through our **Small Group Ministry**. Everyone who calls Harvest St. Louis their church home is strongly encouraged to take part in a small group. This is where the primary action takes place as we study the Word together, pray, and hold one another accountable. It is from these home-based groups that we also venture out into the mission field to bear witness and do work projects to help others.

## Next Steps

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

Types of Issues we help with:

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



## Does the Bible Address My Modern Life?

*Written by Jennifer Schumacher*

In today's fast paced, quickly changing world, it is easy to think a 2,000-year-old text does not address the sophisticated problems we face today. But if you desire to glorify God in all you do (2 Cor 5:9, Col 3:17), you can be assured that God has provided us with "everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3) in His Word.

"Life" has to do with the horizontal – relationships with others and the circumstances we face

"Godliness" refers to the vertical – our relationship with God, our character and our hearts

To trust this is true, you must know who God is. He is the Creator of all things, (Gen 1:1,26; Col 1:16). He is before all things, beyond all things (Col 1:17; Prv 8:22-23) and is in sovereign control of all things (Prv 20:24). God is not a passive Creator; He is near and involved with His creation (Prv 15:3). That means He is in control over what is written in the Bible (2 Peter 1:21) and what is happening right now. He is also holy, good and cares for His creation (1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 143:10).

Because God's Word transcends time and place (1 Peter 1:25; 12), Scripture addresses universal principles that apply to all time and cultures. Specific situations are not addressed in the Bible because God never promises to change our circumstance, but He does promise to be with us through them (Hebrews 13:5).

While the Bible does not address specific situations, it does teach us how to handle anything by teaching wisdom, righteousness and healthy emotional responses. To accomplish this, the Bible explains human nature, who man is in this world and how God prescribes that we live. Only a book written by the Creator of man can give an accurate and complete interpretation of man and how he should function in the world.

Remember, the Old Testament was written 2,000 years before Jesus' birth, yet He was adequately supplied with all He needed to teach. He never contradicted Scripture. We can rest knowing the Bible is still relevant to us today.

**"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love." (2 Peter 1:3-7)**

## ***Women's Bible Studies***

### **Mondays @ 7p**

#### Esther

For more information or to sign-up, contact Jennifer Schumacher at [jschumacher@harveststlouis.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:marystralka@gmail.com)

## ***Getaway Gift Bags!***

Ladies, maybe you saw those SWEET gift boxes for the Living Proof Live Girls' Getaway Weekend Trip but didn't get one. No worries! You can get a Getaway Gift Bag with all of the same inclusions. For an \$85 purchase, you will receive a gift bag with a ticket to the event (\$69 value), a journal, \$10 in lunch money for Saturday and some other goodies. Email [dbreneman@harveststlouis.org](mailto:dbreneman@harveststlouis.org) to order yours. Getaway Gift bags will be available for pick-up at the Women's Ministry table.

## **Girls Getaway!**

*Written by Debbie Breneman*

The group is growing for our overnight Girls' Getaway Weekend Trip to Memphis for Beth Moore and LIVING PROOF LIVE next month and we are so excited! It is sure to be a time of laughing, eating, sharing and, of course, PRAISING GOD for all He has done and is doing in our lives and HEARING FROM HIM through Beth Moore. It is going to be fantastic!

Currently we have a group of THIRTY ladies planning to make the getaway! Don't miss out! You know you want to go too! If you want to go and you aren't currently on the list, contact me right away.

Some ladies have elected to attend an optional workshop on Friday on leadership open to any ladies who would like to attend. These ladies will carpool from church on Thursday.

#### **"You Lead" Session**

Additional Cost: \$69 plus hotel

Let us know right away if you are interested in this optional add-on.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### Friday

Meet at Harvest for carpooling at 11am  
Carpool to Memphis for Living Proof Live  
Doors open at 5:30pm

#### Following the Friday evening session

PJ party in Debbie's room! Join us for a girls' PJ party; bring food/snacks and be ready for some fun!

#### Saturday Morning

Check-out of hotel  
Head over to Living Proof Live  
Conference ends at noon  
Lunch together at local restaurant  
Carpool home. Anticipated arrival is 7:00pm.

If you haven't signed up, contact Debbie right away to get your name on the list. Hotel rooms have been held and can be paid for on site. Cost is \$30 per person per night with four ladies per room.

If you're not going to the conference with us for whatever reason, we ask that you still pray over the group of ladies who will be going. Ask that the Lord would open our hearts and minds to what He wants to teach us!



## *Looking for a Few Good Things*



The renovation in the Youth Center is nearly complete. The students wanted a more cozy setting for a “small group” fellowship and a place to just “do life” together. With the available furniture and some amazing decorating skills from Susan, the birth of a coffee bar fellowship area was born!

We are looking for some additional items to expand the coffee bar area. If you are remodeling your kitchen or know someone who is, we could use the following used equipment:

- Island Cabinets
- Countertops (no back splash)
- A Keurig Machine
- Bar Stools

Please drop us a line at the email above if you can help. We will arrange for transportation.

## *Upcoming Team Work Days*

March 9 – Team Work Day

April 6 – All Church Work Day

April 13 – All Church Work Day  
(Rain Day)

May 11 – Team Work Day

## **This is God’s House!**

*Written by Scott and Susan Reynolds*

Your facilities team has been hard at work since December. You may have noticed better lighting in the hallways, offices, and classrooms, or maybe the new ice machine in the kitchen or new defibrillator in the foyer. You can thank Shirley Green, Don Sterner, and Robert Day for lighting our path. They recently gave up their Saturday morning to SERVE YOU by replacing fluorescent bulbs and removing unsightly dead bugs from the light panels. Don Sterner showed off his repairman skills by replacing the float valve stem and flapper in the ladies’ toilet near the preschool. What a blessing they all are!

Our team vision is a **low maintenance, energy efficient church with curb appeal**. You can help us realize that vision by doing your part. **Watch** for some new technology light sensors coming soon to the bathrooms. Until they are installed, please turn out the lights as you exit if you are the last one.

Please **report** any issues or problems to anyone on the team.

- Scott and Susan Reynolds
- Don Sterner
- Shirley Green
- Robert Day
- Todd Brady

**Join** the team! We could certainly use your help on the April 6 at the All Church Work Day. We need all hands on deck to clean and scrub the sanctuary floor, put out mulch and flowers for Easter, lay new fabric and mulch in the playground areas to keep those nasty weeds at bay, secure our parking lot signs with cement moorings, and dispose of some damaged interior doors. Look for a team sign up list in the foyer by mid-March.

**#URLoved**



***Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***

***(Psalm 23:6)***

## Stewardship Report

February 2019

	Actual	Budget
Week 1	11,332	9,475
Week 2	3,682	9,475
Week 3	7,991	9,475
Week 4	7,308	9,475
Total	30,313	37,900

### 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

Theodore Brooks | Elder

Mike Breneman | Elder



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