

The Historic **First Baptist Church**
“Faith in Action”
Bible Study Activity - July 2022



FBC will not meet online on Thursdays in the month of July to allow you to put your “Faith in Action”.

For the first 6 months of this year 2022 we have been provided Bible Study instruction that has been spiritual, reflective, and engaging. For the month of July we want to put our “Faith in Action” by taking the Bible Study instruction out in the community. The message of introduction has been provided for each month as a way to help you put your faith in action by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to anyone you choose. Use the 6 months of Bible Study instruction to put your faith in action and share on the first Thursday in August when we meet again online. These are some suggestions on how you can spread the Word of God in the month of July (perhaps on Thursday night) since you will have additional time in your schedule.

- Take a picture of you putting your faith in action by visiting someone, sharing at work, or in your community.
- Take a 30-second video of you putting your faith in action by sharing the Word of God, witnessing to someone, or providing encouragement to someone in need.
- Write a brief journal reflection of your experience by putting your faith in action.
- Discuss how you grew and put your faith in action from the 6 months of Bible Study instruction.
- Be ready to give a 2-minute testimony of how you put your faith in action during the month of July.

This is how we are asking you to share how you put your faith in action:

Pictures, short videos, written reflections, written discussions, or testimonies may be emailed to the church fb1776@gmail.com or reginaldfox1226@gmail.com by July 31st.

These will be put together in a PowerPoint to share on the **first Thursday, August 4th, 2022** at the Bible Study. This night will be dedicated to sharing the evidence of putting your faith in action.

January 2022 - Returning, Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing

Focus: Returning, rebuilding, restoring, and renewing are reoccurring themes in the scriptures. God's people go through this process sometimes during their faith journey. Hopefully, after going through this process of returning, rebuilding, restoring, and renewing, God's people are wiser, maturer, and meeker than they previous have been. This process is an effort to help bend human will to the Will of God, and when this happens, the consequences are positive, healing, and redemptive. If we did not go through this process, we would never become the kind of people God would have us to be; and what kind of people God would have us to be? God desires for His people to become new creatures of which old things, i.e. old characters, old attitudes, old behaviors, old lifestyles, which are the results of our old nature have passed away, and all things have become new in Christ Jesus. God's hope for His people is to become "A royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that [they] may proclaim the praises of Him who called [them] out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)." To get us to this desired result, God allows His people to go through some difficult times, challenging situations and tough circumstances for a season—but when this season is over, the returning, the rebuilding, restoring, and renewing began. David understood this process and declared, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes (Psalms 119:71)." Hopefully and prayerfully in the year of 2022, we will return to the Lord to experience God's rebuilding, restoring, and renewing in our individual and collective lives. In this Bible Study we will deal with four sections of this lesson. First scriptures on returning to the Lord; Second, scriptures on rebuilding, Third, scriptures on Restoring, and Fourth, scriptures on Renewing. We cannot have one without meeting the requirements of the other.

February 2022 – The Whole Armor of God

Focus: In the kind of world we are living in today with so much hatred, violence, division, and injustice, we must learn how to put on and keep on the whole armor of God. This pandemic has caught so many of God's people with their armor off that many of them are finding it difficult to function, to focus, and to find their way back to faith. We should never be caught with our armor off because the spiritual warfare we are in takes place all the time. It's during the day time as well as the night time. In every season of the year, we are up against spiritual wickedness in high and low places. When you mix together the pandemic, the division, the violence, the injustice, the vitriol, people's personal and family problems, and the number of deaths in the nation, etc. unless God's people have their armor on, they may become reckless and go off the deep end. Since, this spiritual warfare is increasing in intensity, we need on the whole armor of God to keep from falling victim to Satanic attacks. In this Bible study we will cover what the whole armor of God means for us, and why we must keep it on at all times.

March 2022 – Hope of God & Blood of Jesus

Focus: The focus this evening is The Hope of God and the Blood of Jesus with emphasis on Jesus came to bring us hope.

God foretold hope for the future - that we will be redeemed.

Hope for the present - that we are not alone but loved and have purpose.

Hope even over the past — that our failures are not greater than God’s power to transform.

Hope brings faith.

Hope brings joy.

Hope brings praise to God

Our entire walk as a believer is based on hope.

April 2022 - Conscience

Focus: It appears today that we live in a conscienceless society and a conscienceless world. People are doing some of everything today with no conscience to condemn their action. Conscience is the internal voice that speaks to us about what is wrong and what is right; what is moral or immoral. John MacArthur describes conscience as “A built-in warning system that signals us when something we have done is wrong. The conscience is to our souls what pain sensors are to our bodies: it inflicts distress, in the form of guilt, whenever we violate what our hearts tell us is right.” Joe Carter said, “Our conscience is a part of our God-given internal faculties, a critical inner awareness that bears witness to the norms and values we recognize when determining right or wrong.” When people ignore their conscience, their actions can get them into a lot of trouble possibly killed. Conscience in us is there for a reason, and what is the reason? It is in us to guide our decisions and act accordingly to what is right and what is wrong. When we fail to listen to conscience, we are open for the enemy to enter in our minds to do the work of the kingdom of darkness instead of the work of the Kingdom of God. Conscience can be misinformed that leads to misdeeds. During this Bible study, we will discuss conscience as a trustworthy guide when it is informed and ruled by God to keep us on the straight and narrow way.

May 2022 – Refined by God

Focus: In order for us to become like Christ, we have to go through a refining process. Oftentimes this process is not pretty; it is not welcomed; and it is not desired, but it is necessary to get rid of those sins, attitudes, and behaviors that make us unlike the person of Jesus Christ. God sees us not as hopeless humans, but full of potential. God is the Refiner and we are the lump of unrefined gold, full of impurity and full of potential beauty. Mike Goeke said, “Gold, when extracted from the earth, does not look like gold we find in a jewelry store. In fact, it is not always recognizable due to the impurities that mar its appearance. Yet, for the person searching for it, the ugliest lump of gold is of great value, and the potential for beauty is evident. We, as men and women, are similar to those lumps of unrefined gold.”¹ God takes us through the refining process of struggle, toil, pain, sorrow, and agony. That which is insignificant, unimportant, and worldly in our lives melts away like dross (impurities) to make us shine like the brightness of Jesus Christ. This process creates opportunities for God to do something transformational in our lives. Refining prepares, purges, purifies, and thus blesses us to become like pure gold. Blessed are those who endure the refining.

June 2022 – Praise & Worship

Focus: The study of biblical praise and worship is a study for the entire church body. It’s not just for worship teams or ministry leaders. We are spiritual beings having a human experience created to praise, worship, and give glory to our creator God. Our study on the topic of praise and worship is not to prescribe a set of rules and steps, it is to bring into focus, remind, and validate that worship is a lifestyle and not an event. It is something we do to communicate, stay in touch with, and be in the presence of the Father. It is to touch the heart of God. It is between you and the Creator. A guiding scripture: John 4:23-24 (NIV) - ²³ *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. . 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.* Our Father seeks for those that are true worshippers. Those that worship Him in spirit and in truth; those that worship Him His way and not their own way. What is the biblical pattern for worship? Have you ever wondered “who was the first worship leader”? This month we will examine and discuss scriptures that will give us insight into this topic with the hope of drawing closer to God through our individual and collective praise and worship.