

Sunday Reservations

Church Family:

Just a “heads up” on a couple of things as we head into July:

1. **Reservations will no longer be required in order to participate in our three Sunday morning worship services (8:00, 9:30, & 11:00).** Up to this point we have been able to accommodate those worshipping with us while maintaining physical distancing guidelines. The only worship services where we have come close to “maxing out” our main worship area have been at the 11:00 services. If we experience a larger than “new normal” number of worshipers at any of our future services, we may have to encourage some who arrive last to worship in the Chapel or in the Lobby.
2. **While we are making disposable face masks available, we are not requiring that you wear one.** If you choose to worship with us, please do so understanding and accepting the reality that a majority of attendees are choosing to not wear face masks.
3. **Reservations** — which can be made online through our greeleychurch.com website by going to the calendar page under the events tab — **are still being required for our Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Classes.** This is necessary because of the limited number of people we can accommodate in the space where these classes meet. You can choose to show up without registering — but, if you do so, those with reservations will be given first priority in the event of “too many” people showing up.
4. If you are at all concerned for any reason about being exposed to COVID-19 (or any other disease) and especially if you are in a “high-risk” group due to pre-existing underlying conditions, please choose to worship with us online through our greeleychurch.com website, our Mountain View Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

May God be gracious to you. May He give comfort to those of you who need it. May He give encouragement to those who are discouraged. And, may He use each of us to be a blessing to others in the days ahead!

-Pastor Bruce

[The Sermon on the Mount](#)

Leader Bible Study

One of Jesus' most well-known teachings is the Sermon on the Mount. On that day, crowds of people had come to hear Jesus. Jesus went up on a mountain in Galilee, sat down, and began to teach.

Jesus' sermon is recorded across three chapters in the Gospel of Matthew, 5-7, and it tells how believers should live. While Matthew 5:1-2 specifies that Jesus taught His disciples, Matthew 7:28 reveals that the crowds listened to His sermon as well.

First, Jesus began with the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes describe God's great blessings for believers. God's kingdom belongs to the spiritually needy, God will comfort those who are sad, and God will give mercy to those who show mercy to others. Jesus gives believers reason to be glad when life on earth is hard because great rewards await in heaven.

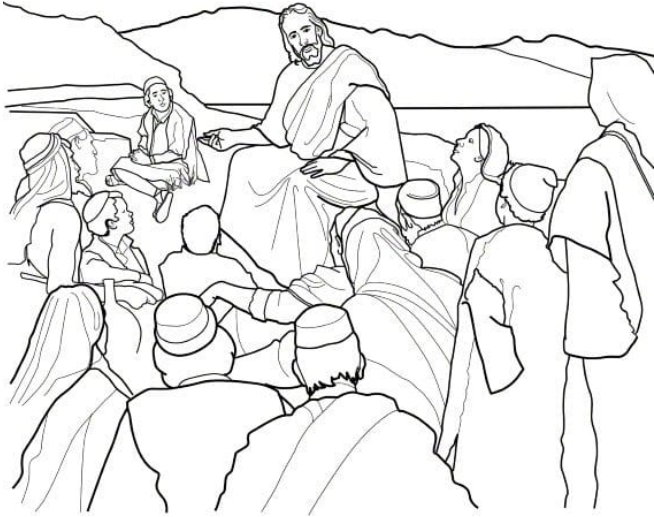
Jesus also taught how believers should live in a world that does not honor Him. Jesus called believers "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14). He said the good works of His followers should cause others to give glory to God.

God's people had the law of Moses, but some of them—the Pharisees, in particular—were concerned mostly with the appearance of being righteous. They tried hard to look righteous on the outside, but it was all an act. Jesus warned against hypocrites, people who pretend to be something they're not. When a person knows and loves Jesus, he or she has a changed heart that wants to honor Jesus.

As you teach kids Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, emphasize that this moral teaching was not a list of requirements for being accepted by God. Rather, Jesus described what a person's life looks like when that person follows God and lives to honor Him. God's standards remind us that we rely on His grace through the gift of salvation in His Son.

The **BIBLE** Story

The Sermon on the Mount



Matthew 5-7

Great crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. **One day, Jesus** went up on a mountain. He sat down and **began to teach about the kingdom of God.**

First, Jesus taught about the blessings that come to those who follow Him. He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

Then Jesus taught how believers should live. Jesus said that believers are the light of the world. “Let your light shine before others so that they may see the good things you do and choose to praise God.”

Then Jesus taught about God’s law. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law, but to obey it perfectly. **He said that to enter heaven, a person can’t just look righteous on the outside**—like the religious leaders. **A person must be righteous on the inside too**, obeying God for the right reasons.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies, and pray for them.” He said, “When you give to people who are poor, give in secret. And when you pray, don’t pray just so that people will hear you.” Jesus taught the people how to pray.

He also said, “Forgive others. If you forgive those who sin against you, God will forgive you too. But if you don’t forgive them, God will not forgive you.”

Jesus said, “Do not collect treasures on earth, which can be destroyed or stolen. Collect treasures in heaven instead. For where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be also.” He taught that God provides for His people.

Jesus taught the people many things. When He finished teaching, **the crowds were amazed because He taught them like one who had authority.**

Christ Connection: Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

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Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Leader Bible Study

In the Old Testament, Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah. Isaiah 35:5-6 tells about a time when “the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.” When God the Son came to earth, He came as a Healer—removing skin diseases, raising the dead to life, making the lame walk, and giving sight to the blind.

John 9 gives us a glimpse of the kingdom of God, where creation is redeemed, and opens our eyes to the greater purpose of suffering in our lives. The disciples asked Jesus a question that many still wrestle with today: Why is this person suffering? (In this case, why was this man born blind?) Was it because of sin?

Jesus’ answer gives hope to anyone facing suffering: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him” (John 9:3). Because Jesus is Lord over everything, all suffering in this life has meaning and purpose.

Miraculously, Jesus gave sight to the man who was blind. The man’s neighbors noticed the change, and he told them what Jesus had done for him. But the reaction of the religious leaders—skepticism and unbelief—reveals a different kind of blindness: spiritual blindness. Sin keeps us from seeing what is true about God. Jesus came as light into a dark world. He helps us see what is true so we can know God.

Those who trust in Jesus are freed from sin and worship Jesus as Lord. We can live fully in the light of Jesus as we seek to make Him known to others so that their eyes might be opened to the truth of the gospel as well.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Blind



John 9

Jesus was walking with His disciples when He saw a man who had been born blind. The disciples asked, “Teacher, why was this man born blind? Did this happen because of his sin or his parents’ sin?”

Jesus answered, “Neither his sin nor his parents’ sin caused this. This man was born blind so that people could see God’s power through him.” Jesus would be on earth for a short time so He healed people to show what God is like. **Jesus said, “While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.”**

Then Jesus spit on the ground and made mud. He put the mud on the eyes of the man who was blind. “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam,” Jesus instructed. The man went and washed. When he came back, he could see.

The man’s neighbors were amazed. They took the man to the religious leaders, and they asked him how he was healed. “A man put mud on my eyes. I washed, and now I can see,” he said.

The religious leaders were upset because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath again. They did not want to believe that Jesus could give sight to people who were blind. Over and over again, the man who was healed told the religious leaders what happened. The man believed Jesus must have come from God. But the religious leaders threw the man out of the synagogue.

Jesus came to the man again and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

The man answered, “Tell me who He is so I can believe in Him.”

“You have already seen Him,” Jesus replied. “The Son of Man is talking to you now.”

The man said, “I believe, Lord!” and he worshiped Jesus.

Christ Connection: Our sin makes us unable to see the truth about God. Jesus came as a light in a dark world. He came to give us sight—true understanding of God and His kingdom. Those who trust in Jesus see who He is and worship Him.

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Jesus Heals a Lame Man

Leader Bible Study

Located in the city of Jerusalem, the pool of Bethesda was a place many believed to possess healing powers. People who were sick or disabled went to the pool in hope of being made whole. They believed an angel would stir up the waters, and the first person to get in would be healed. (Some translations include this detail in verse 4; but since the earliest and most accurate manuscripts do not include the detail, most contemporary translations omit it as well.)

Jesus sought out a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been disabled for 38 years. Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to get well?” The man, not recognizing who was talking to him (see John 5:13), explained his inability to get to the pool in time. Filled with compassion, Jesus commanded this man: “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” After decades of helplessness, the man was instantly healed. He picked up his mat and walked.

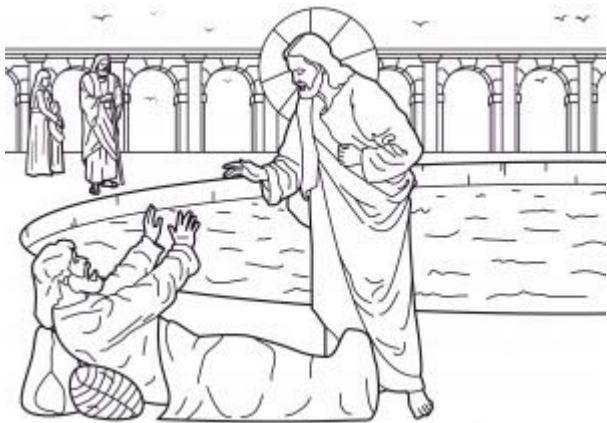
At this time, Jesus slipped away through the crowd. So when the Jewish leaders approached the man,

asking questions about the healing and accusing the man of breaking the law by picking up his mat on the Sabbath, the man could not even identify who healed him. Yet Jesus sought out the man a second time. Jesus found the man in the temple and warned him, "Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn't happen to you."

Jesus cared about the man's body; He had healed it. But Jesus cared more about the man's soul. As you teach kids, emphasize that the man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus' commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus Healed a Man Who Was Lame



John 5

Jesus went to Jerusalem and stood by the pool of Bethesda (buh THEZ duh). Many people were at the pool who were blind, lame, or paralyzed. **Jesus noticed a man who could not walk. He had been lying there for a long time. Jesus asked him, "Do you want to get well?"**

The man answered, "Sir, I have no one to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up. Someone else always gets in before me." The man thought if he could get into the water, he would be healed.

Jesus told him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” Right away, the man was miraculously healed. He picked up his mat and started to walk.

This happened on the Sabbath, so the Jews told the man who was healed, “It is against the law to pick up your mat on the Sabbath.”

The man replied, “The man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk.”

“Who was the man?” the Jews asked. But the man who was healed did not know who had healed him. By this time, Jesus had slipped away into the crowd.

Later, Jesus found the healed man in the temple. Jesus said to him, “See, you are healed. Do not sin anymore, so that something worse doesn’t happen to you.”

Then the man went to the Jews and told them that Jesus had healed him. So the Jews began persecuting Jesus because He was healing people on the Sabbath. Jesus told the Jews, “My Father is still working, and I am working too.”

Now the Jews wanted even more to kill Jesus because He wasn’t just breaking their rules about the Sabbath, **He was saying that God is His Father—making Himself equal to God.** Jesus is God’s Son, and He always did what God said was right.

Christ Connection: The man at the pool was unable to help himself. Jesus healed him, and he obeyed Jesus’ commands. In a similar way, we are unable to free ourselves from sin. Jesus calls us to trust in Him. When we trust in Jesus, He frees us from the power of sin and death so we can follow Him and obey Him.

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Jesus Heals a Woman and a Girl

Leader Bible Study

Jesus had just returned from the region of the Gerasenes, where He had healed a man with an unclean spirit. He crossed the Sea of Galilee and came on shore, where He was surrounded by a large crowd of people. News of Jesus' teachings and healings was spreading, and people wanted to see Jesus. They wanted to learn from Him and be healed.

Jairus, a leader in the synagogue, came to Jesus in crisis. His daughter was at the point of death. Without Jesus' help, she would surely die. Jesus went with Jairus, but as He walked, a woman in the crowd came up behind Him and touched His robes. She too was desperate for healing. The woman believed that Jesus' power was strong enough to heal her even if all she did was touch His robe. Because she had faith, Jesus healed her.

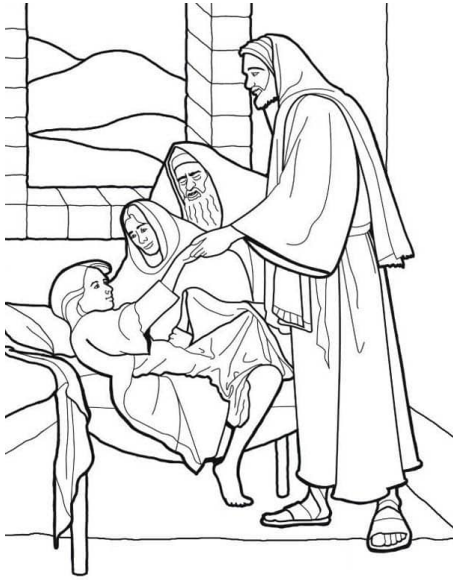
Imagine Jairus' devastation when he heard that his daughter had died. The people suggested that Jesus was too late to help her, but Jesus proved them wrong. He went to Jairus' house and raised the little girl from the dead.

Through His healing miracles, Jesus showed His power as the Messiah. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes us to be more like His Son.

As you teach kids, point out that the woman and the father of the little girl came to Jesus in faith. They needed Jesus' help, and they trusted in Jesus' power to heal. After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He ascended to heaven. Even though Jesus is not physically on earth today, we can pray and ask God to heal people who are sick. Whether or not God grants immediate physical healing, we can rest knowing that He brings ultimate healing through His Son, Jesus.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus Healed a Woman and a Girl



Mark 5

Jesus stood on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and a large crowd gathered around Him. Jairus (JIGH ruhs), one of the leaders in the synagogue, fell at Jesus' feet and begged for His help.

"My daughter is about to die! Please come touch her so she will be healed and live," he said. Jesus went with Jairus, and many people followed, crowding around Him.

In the crowd was a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. She had seen many doctors and had spent all her money trying to get better, but no one could help her. She was getting worse. The woman said to herself, "If I touch even Jesus' clothes, I will be healed."

She came up behind Jesus in the crowd and touched His clothes. Immediately, her bleeding stopped and she knew she was healed.

At that moment, Jesus felt that power had gone out of Him. He turned around. "Who touched My clothes?" He asked. Jesus' disciples pointed out that many people were crowded around Him. But Jesus kept looking around. The woman, knowing she was healed, came forward and fell before Jesus. She told Him what had happened.

Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace. You are healed.”

While Jesus was speaking, some men came from Jairus’ house and told Jairus, “Your daughter is dead. Do not bother Jesus anymore.”

Jesus heard what the men said, and He told Jairus, “Do not be afraid. Just believe.”

Jesus and three of His disciples went to Jairus’ house. People there were crying and wailing loudly. “Why are you crying?” Jesus asked. “The child is not dead. She is sleeping.”

The people laughed because they did not believe Jesus, and He told them all to leave. **Jesus took Jairus and his wife into the room where the child was. He took the girl by the hand and said, “Little girl, get up.”**

Immediately, the girl got up and began walking around. Jairus and his wife were amazed. Jesus told them to give the girl some food and to not tell anyone what had happened.

Christ Connection: By healing the woman and raising the little girl from the dead, Jesus showed His power as the Messiah. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save people from sin and death. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes us to be more like His Son.

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[Jesus Healed Ten Men](#)

Leader Bible Study

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He stopped in a village. He was approached by ten men who had leprosy. The men didn't get too close because according to Jewish law, their disease meant they were unclean. Leviticus 13-14 details the law regarding skin diseases such as leprosy. A person had to go to a priest for a diagnosis, isolate himself from others, and then—after healing occurred—return to the priest to be examined, cleansed, and restored to the community.

The men cried out to Jesus for mercy, and He commanded them to go and show themselves to the priests. As they went, Jesus miraculously healed them. This healing gave the men a new beginning. They would be able to return to their friends and family members. One of the men—a Samaritan among Jews—seeing that he was healed, returned to Jesus.

Luke tells us how this man responded: "He ... gave glory to God. He fell face down at [Jesus'] feet, thanking him" (Luke 17:15-16). This humility and gratitude were evidences of faith. The man's response shows an understanding of God's mercy and goodness. Jesus declared, "Get up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you" (v. 19). This man was healed not just physically but spiritually.

The Bible says all of us have sinned. Our sin makes us unclean, but we can cry out to God like the men with leprosy: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" God hears our prayers and answers. (See Ps. 51:17.) The gospel welcomes all people who turn from their sin and trust in Jesus.

As you teach kids, emphasize that when we trust in Jesus by faith, He heals us from something greater than a disease; He saves us from our sins. We can give Him thanks and worship Him for making us new.

The **BIBLE** Story



Jesus Healed Ten Men

Luke 17

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He **entered a village**. **Ten men cried out to Him, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”** The men did not come close to Jesus because they **had a skin disease called *leprosy***.

Jesus saw them and said, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” Jesus wanted the men to follow the law God had given to Moses. **The law said a person who had a skin disease had to go to a priest to be examined when the disease was gone.** The priest and the person had to follow certain rules so the person could live a normal life among people again.

As they went, the ten men were miraculously healed. One of the men, seeing that he was healed, went back to Jesus. He praised God and fell facedown at Jesus’ feet, thanking Him over and over. This man wasn’t a Jew; he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked the man, “Weren’t ten men cleansed? Where are the others?” Only this man—a foreigner—had returned to give thanks and praise to God.

Jesus told him, “Get up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.”

Christ Connection: Jesus healed the ten men who cried out to Him. The one who had faith was saved. When we trust in Jesus by faith, He heals us from something greater than a disease; He saves us from our sins. We can give Him thanks and worship Him for making us new.

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Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

Leader Bible Study

At the time Jesus was on earth, Jews and Samaritans didn't get along. The strife between the two groups stretched back hundreds of years, to the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonians attacked Judah, they moved a large group of God's people away from their homes. But some of the people—the poorest, sickest, least able to work—were left behind in the region that became known as Samaria. The exile lasted 70 years. During that time, those left in Samaria began to mingle with their neighbors to the north. They intermarried and practiced foreign customs. While the Samaritans still believed in God, they adapted foreign beliefs as well.

The Jews who returned home from Babylon to rebuild God's temple in Jerusalem rejected this new way of life. They were dedicated to obeying and worshiping God, so they didn't agree with the Samaritans' practices. The Samaritans opposed the Jews' efforts to reestablish their nation. In time, the Jews' hate for the Samaritans grew—so much so that a Jew traveling from Judea to Galilee would take a longer route to travel around Samaria rather than through it.

Jesus broke down barriers when He traveled to Galilee by way of Samaria. Even more surprising, Jesus stopped at a well around noon and asked a Samaritan woman for a drink. Jewish men did not speak to women in public.

But Jesus was kind to her, and He offered her a gift: living water. The woman didn't understand, but Jesus revealed His knowledge of her past. He even gave her a glimpse of the future. The Samaritan woman expected a Messiah to come and fix everything. Jesus said, "I am He."

Explain to kids that the living water Jesus offers is the Holy Spirit. (See John 7:37-39.) The Holy Spirit is a gift that He is eager to give us when we ask Him. Those who receive His grace will never be thirsty again.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman



John 4

Jesus had been teaching in Judea. He **and His disciples** began traveling back to Galilee. They **traveled through Samaria and stopped in a town with a well. Jesus' disciples went into town to buy food.**

While Jesus was at the well, a Samaritan woman came to get water from the well. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

The woman was surprised. **“Why are You talking to me?” she asked. “You’re a Jew, and I’m a Samaritan.”**

Jesus said, “I asked you for a drink. You don’t know who I am. If you did, you would have asked Me for a drink, and I would give you living water.”

The woman was confused. She **said**, “Sir, this well is deep, and You don’t have a bucket. **Where do You get this ‘living water’?**”

Jesus said, “Anyone who drinks this well water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water I give will never be thirsty again! In fact, the water I give will become a well inside you, and you will have eternal life.” Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, but the woman did not understand.

“Sir,” she said, “give me this water. If I’m not thirsty, I won’t have to keep coming to this well to get water.”

“Go get your husband,” Jesus said.

“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus knew she was telling the truth. He said, “You don’t have a husband now, but you’ve had five husbands.”

Jesus was right. “I see You are a prophet,” the woman said. Maybe this prophet could explain something to her. She said, “The Samaritans worship here on a mountain, but the Jews say we need to worship at the temple in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said, “Soon you will not need to be in either of those places to worship God in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus said, “I am the Messiah.”

The woman left and told the people in her town, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could this be the Messiah?”

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. Jesus stayed in their town for two days. Many more believed because of what Jesus said. They told the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world.”

Christ Connection: Jesus offers something better than physical water; He gives us Himself. Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to Him by faith. We can worship Him as Lord and Savior wherever we are.

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[This Weekend @ Mountain View](#)

THIS WEEKEND – MAY 24th – AT MOUNTAIN VIEW:

Some important information for our church family as we resume modified public worship services:

- Please remember that we need you to reserve your seat at one of our three Sunday Morning Worship Services (8:00; 9:30; or 11:00) if you plan to worship in person with us. You can do this by going to the calendar on our church website’s “events” page, clicking on the service you wish to attend, and entering your information. You can click on the following link to take you there: <https://www.greeleychurch.com/events/>. Be sure you are selecting the correct date! Depending upon the number of individuals and the size of family groups, we will be able to accommodate*

anywhere from about 80 up to possibly as many as 100 in each service while still maintaining social distancing recommendations. If necessary, we may have to seat those who arrive last in our Chapel where the services will be live-streamed.

- We ask that you plan to arrive no sooner than about 10 minutes prior to your scheduled service because we will not be able to allow worshipers to enter the main worship area until hard surface chairs (which will be an option until filled) have been sprayed with a virucide and allowed to dry. (Please note: We do not have the ability to disinfect soft surfaces such as our cloth-covered chairs.)
- At the close of each service we will ask you to maintain social distancing while leaving and to not linger in the building as we will need to wipe down some of the hard surfaces between services.
- While we will have some of our restrooms available for use, we ask that you reserve their use for emergencies — as another precaution against spreading any virus.
- Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer Christian Education on-site or Nursery care at this time. If you are bringing an infant with you, please remember to register him or her!

Finally, while we would love to see everyone in person, we acknowledge that just because you can come worship with us doesn't mean that you should. If you or anyone in your immediate family are or have recently been ill OR if you live with someone whose health is compromised, please take advantage of our weekly online messages. Our plan is to continue recording and posting our "Sunday" message on our church website

(<https://www.greeleychurch.com/message/>) as well as our Mountain View YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDTPpkYgxApBGq2SajpZOPg/featured>) & on our Mountain View Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/Mountain-View-Church-1156430707724678/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel&eid=ARCGdt0UOf4mfJxtjxE4dWwNpgQ31W4qJLVpe3M4WedzwHuhZ1Py155eEoiXXR2lxwsvBoV65ZN-LjBj) by 8 AM each Sunday for the foreseeable future.

Please contact us with any questions. May God help us to take necessary precautions without living in fear. He is in control. And, if our faith is in Him, our destiny is secure!

-Pastor Bruce

Jesus and Nicodemus

Leader Bible Study

Jesus' ministry had begun. His early miracles included turning water into wine, casting out demons, and healing people. John 2:23 says that "many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing." Jesus likely spent a large part of His day teaching. When the day was done, He spent time alone or with His disciples. One night, a man named Nicodemus approached Jesus.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews; that is, he was a religious leader who taught God's law, and he was a member of the Sanhedrin—a Jewish governing body. Nicodemus held to the belief that if a person was a law-abiding Jew, he would be accepted by God. Jesus gave Nicodemus a lesson that would turn his belief system on its head.

Jesus was a carpenter (Mark 6:3), so the religious teachers likely assumed He didn't know theology. But they had seen Jesus' miraculous signs in Jerusalem. Nicodemus had to conclude, "You are a teacher who has come from God" (John 3:2).

Nicodemus initiated the conversation, but Jesus chose the subject. His words perplexed Nicodemus: "Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Jesus explained that spiritual birth is not unlike physical birth in that a person cannot do it himself; it is something that happens to him.

Jesus reminded Nicodemus of an Old Testament account, the disobedient Israelites and the bronze snake. The Israelites could not help themselves, but when they trusted in God and looked to the bronze snake lifted up on the pole, they were healed. (Num. 21:4-9)

Emphasize to kids that every person is born a sinner—spiritually dead and alienated from God. It is by God's Spirit—not our own effort—that we are born again. We look to Jesus and His finished work on the cross for our salvation.

The **BIBLE** Story

Jesus and Nicodemus



John 3

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover feast. **One night, a religious man came to see Jesus. The man's name was Nicodemus.** Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He studied and taught God's law, and he tried very hard to obey the law. **Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus.**

"Rabbi," he said, "we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. No one could do the miracles You do unless God were with him."

Nicodemus had that right. **Jesus said, "I tell you: Unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

Now Nicodemus was confused. He thought that keeping all God's laws was how a person got into heaven. Besides, what Jesus said didn't make any sense! **"How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked.**

Jesus said, “A person cannot enter God’s kingdom unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.” When a baby is born, he gets physical life from his parents. Physical life doesn’t last forever. But the Spirit gives people a better kind of life—spiritual life—so they can live with God forever.

Jesus said, “Don’t be surprised I told you that you must be born again.”

Nicodemus still didn’t understand. “How is this possible?” he asked.

Jesus said, “When you don’t believe what I say about things I’ve seen on earth, how will you believe what I say about the things I’ve seen in heaven? Do you remember how Moses raised up the bronze snake in the wilderness? Everyone who looked at it was healed. Like that, the Son of Man will be raised up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”

Then Jesus told Nicodemus about God’s great plan. Jesus said, “God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son to declare the world guilty, but to save the world. Anyone who believes in Him is found not guilty, but anyone who does not believe in Him is guilty already.”

Christ Connection: Nicodemus needed new life—eternal life—but he could not do anything to earn it. Eternal life is a gift that comes only from God. God showed His love in this way: He sent His one and only Son to save the world. Everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.

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