

# Faith News

## Winter 2017-2018

December - February



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### Who was St. Nicholas? *by Pastor John*

St. Nicholas was born to Christian parents in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. While he was young, his parents both died, leaving him a sizable inheritance. Nicholas lived in Asia Minor, which is now Turkey. He used his money to help those who needed it the most. There are many legends about him providing food for starving people during a famine and gifting people with their needs. Like our modern-day Santa, he tried to do everything in private.

While young, Nicholas was a learned student of Christianity, and rose to a leadership position early. He became the Bishop of Myra and supposedly attended the council of Nicea.

One of the most endearing stories says that there was a poor man in the city. He had three daughters who could not be married because the father lacked a dowry for them. Upon hearing this, Nicholas dropped three bags of gold down the fireplace. As the legend goes, the girls had at just washed their stockings and hung them by the fireplace to dry. The bags of gold fell into the stockings. The father was able to catch Nicholas in the act, and though he promised to remain quiet, news quickly spread.

Nicholas was known as a man of prayer, and strongly taught against heresies of the early church, that caused many problems in the early years.

St. Nicholas was exiled from Myra and later put in prison during the persecution by Emperor Diocletian. Nicholas died on December 6, 345.

The legends of St. Nicholas persisted for many years, and he was known as the patron saint of more people than any other saint. Eventually people started giving gifts on the Saints feast day, which is December 6<sup>th</sup>.

When the reformation hit, the stories of St. Nicholas fell out of favor and both the character and the day morphed more into what we know today.

In 1836 Clement Clark Moore authored the poem, A Visit From St. Nicholas. It is from this poem that the number and names of the reindeer were learned, although it had long been included in the legend that he rode in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. We didn't have Rudolph until the song was released in 1949. Today, St. Nicholas lies in the church that bears his name in Venice. Not long ago, he was exhumed during construction and a reconstruction and measurements were completed. St. Nicholas stood 5'6". And here is a picture of how he probably looked.

Today, there is much debate as to whether or not, or how much Christians should celebrate Christmas, and how much of a part St. Nicholas or Santa should play.

That is an answer that only the parents can make, although I think that teaching the truths about St. Nicholas as an avid student of Christianity, a Bishop, Martyr and staunch defender of the faith are a good thing.

Christmas offers many of the basic tenants of Christianity as well. Spending time with family, being in community with the body, selfless giving of gifts and loving those around us, are all good things. All of the above open up opportunities, along with the story of the birth of our savior to share the saving knowledge of Jesus with our children, as well as those close to us.

Getaway for Couples  
Feb. 23-25

FAMILYLIFE™ presents  
weekend to remember™

Register at:  
[familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember/](http://familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember/)

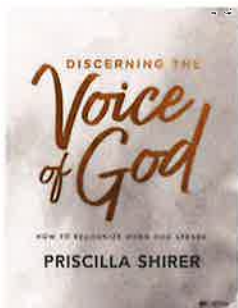
Use group name  
FFCFamily to  
get \$100 off.

get  
away.  
come  
together.

See page 5 for all  
the details!



# Current & Upcoming Bible Studies



Discerning the Voice of God by Priscilla Shirer  
Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.

Begins January 8th

See Patti Thielen for more information.

Designed to be used in conjunction with the 7-session DVD study, this newly revised and updated edition of Priscilla Shirer's *Discerning the Voice of God Study Guide* provides four days of study and insight followed by a fifth day of listening to what the Holy Spirit has been teaching you throughout the week.

## Goliath Must Fall

Winning the Battle Against Your Giants

Louie

Fear. Rejection. Addiction. Anger.  
Comfort...must fall.  
Continues Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Led by Scott Houser

It's likely you have a threatening giant in your life...an adversary or stronghold that's diminishing your ability to live a full and free life. Frozen in the grip of rejection, fear, anger, comfort, or addiction, we lose sight of the promise God has for our lives.

Demoralized and defeated, we settle for far less than his best. God has a better plan for you, a plan for you to live in victory. That's why he has silenced your giant once and for all. In *Goliath Must Fall*, Pastor Louie Giglio uncovers a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. The key to living free from our giants is not better slingshot accuracy but keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer - Jesus. Put your hope in him, and watch Goliath fall.

## walk <sup>with</sup> the BIBLE

"Walk through the Bible"  
Bible Study open to everyone  
Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

Lead by Pastor John  
Currently in the  
Book of Revelation

Discover  
UNDERSTAND



LEARN  
GROW

## Sunday School classes. Sunday's at 9:30 a.m.

Bill's Brothers - Men's class - led by Bill Connell

Senior Ambassadors - Over 50 class, but all are always welcome, led by Tom Hall

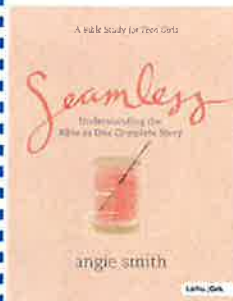
Women at the Well - Ladies class - led by Rosalie Wilkey

Friendship Class - Co-ed adult class currently study: Hebrews, led by Rafeal & Teresa Ortiz

Co-ed Class - current study: Daniel, led by Chris Thielen

Young Adult Class - current study book: *Jaded*. Rediscovering Hope in Reality. What happens when idealism intersects with reality? Led by Jon & Cheri Bush

Diva's Digging Deeper - Ladies class. Current study: *Seamless* by Angie Smith, led by Lisa Baab



*Seamless* covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming.

Our next study will begin March 4th, *Uninvited* by Lysa TerKeurst.

Rejection often finds its way into our hearts at an early age. Perhaps as a child you were teased mercilessly for your hair or clothes, or you received an injury and couldn't play the sport you loved and had to watch from the sidelines, or maybe like Lysa TerKeurst, an adult who should have cared for you and nurtured you, left without explanation. These wounds dig deep into our sense of self, and can resurface in surprising ways as an adult. However, this doesn't have to be the end of the story.

In *Uninvited*, Lysa shares honestly from her own struggles with rejection and gives readers concrete truths to combat the lies our old Enemy hurls our way. You can stop feeling left out, because even when you are overlooked by others, you are handpicked by God. You can change your tendencies to either fall apart or control the actions of others by adopting healthy ways to process your hurt. You are designed for a love without limits, a love that will never let go.



## Stay Warm!

*Matthew 24:12-14 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

I'm not sure how much I enjoy the freezing weather here as we're traveling across the United States, but I certainly can't wait till Spring comes! On the Hebrew calendar Nisan is the month that transitions from winter to Spring. The ice finally starts melting and new life springs forth during this month. Doesn't it make sense that Yeshua (Jesus) died and rose again from the dead during this month; the month of the transition from that which is frozen to that which is alive?!

The power of God melts through thick ice, and infuses life into all things! Is your love growing cold and frigid? Then allow the Lord to thaw you out! The world is cold to the things of God -- but as Saints, we need to be sure that we're not allowing the world to numb us with its coldness; rather, we ought to be melting the frozen world around us!

Let's not get iced over with the snow, and freezing winter weather, (for those of us who are shivering through it just now), or even worse, the cold hard world around us. The Lord our God is a sun and shield. His warmth will fill us and will radiate out into the lives of others, if we will abide in His loving Presence. <https://www.worthydevotions.com/christian-devotional/stay-warm>



# WEDNESDAYS @ FAITH!

## WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY CHURCH MEALS, AWANA & LIFE GROUP

**Each Wednesday @ 5 pm**, starting September 6 through May, we serve dinner. This is not an 'Awana' meal, but a church-wide & community meal. A time to join together mid-week to fellowship and eat together. This meal serves a great purpose in allowing those who work and those who don't, to relax and gather for a meal. Take an evening to come together in fellowship before we 'go' and serve, or attend a Bible study.

We encourage all of you to come out and get to know each other better. Sit at a different table each week and have great conversations with families you might not know.



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy  
2:15

### AWANA - Each Wednesday @ 6 pm

#### Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed

Awana clubs are for kids ages 3 through 6th grade.

A club where kids learn God's Word and hide it in their

hearts. A club where leaders of all ages develop relationships with kids that are not their own.

A club where kids learn how to be a team; playing fun games where they earn points as a team, not as individuals. If you have children in these age groups, don't miss out on this great experience.

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11*



### Bible Study each Wednesday morning & evening!

Join Pastor John each Wednesday at 10 am for a continued "Walk through the Bible" study.

**Young Adult Life Group** meets at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening, led by Jon & Cheri Bush.



## Service Opportunities

Join a weekday or Sunday ministry team to as we continue to welcome new visitors. Check out all the areas of serving opportunities. We'll provide the training; you provide the servant's heart. Here are some of the areas needed during this current fall season:

#### GUEST SERVICES FACILITIES

Ushers, Greeters

General cleaning & lawn care

Hospitality kitchen coordinator

#### MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Serving & cleanup for our weekly meal.

#### IT

Sound, slides, recording, singers & instrumentalists

#### CARE

Computer, TV & screen updates

#### SECURITY

Hospital and/or in home visits

Security team

Contact the church office at [ffc@goffc.org](mailto:ffc@goffc.org) or 598-6734 to get plugged in.





# KINGDOM KIDS!

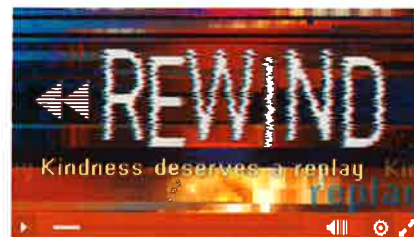
**252 Kids (ages K-5)** *submitted by Cheryl Ferguson*

**In December** we learn that every good and perfect gift comes from God. In fact, generosity is at the very core of God's character—He even gave us His own son, Jesus! Jesus showed unwavering generosity as He traded His life for ours. And, because God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave His life, we can be generous towards others. Not only that, but when we are generous towards others, we prove that we love God by loving the people He loves. We pray that this Christmas, as kids celebrate God's amazing generosity, they'll see how they can be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors. Together we will learn: 1) What do you have to give? 2) Why is it important to give to others? 3) What are some ways we can give this Christmas? 4) What does Christmas mean to you? 5) How can you be more generous?



2018 kicks off with the question that grown-ups ask all the time: How can you hear from God? It's an important question. Growing in faith is not something that just happens by learning about cool Bible miracles. Kids need to know that they can hear from God. But God doesn't speak audibly, so how can we hear from him? We hope kids will wrestle with this idea and learn that through reading God's Word and prayer, they can hear from God and discover what God wants for them. Three more big questions for **January**: How do you pray to God? Who can you talk with about God? How can you live for God? Jesus talks to his disciples about these hard questions. The take-home papers can help you discuss these challenging questions with your children.

**In February**, the Kingdom Kids theme is "Rewind Kindness." God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Even when we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. Because of God's great love for us, we can be kind to everyone. We will talk about God's amazing love for us, and how we can show that love to others, even when it is hard to be kind. Jesus said not everyone will be kind. Sometimes people are mean to us. But what sets followers of Jesus apart is that we can show God's love, even to people who treat us badly.



**You are always welcome to sit in on a class to see what Kingdom Kids is all about. If you would like to volunteer to help during the church service, contact Pastor Josh. Working with kids and pouring into their lives is such a blessing.**

## First Look (ages 3-5) *submitted by Cheryl Ferguson*

Preschoolers love showing us what they can do. They are full of WATCH THIS moments. And it can be anything—turning in a circle, running and jumping on a pile of pillows, curtsying like a princess, or my favorite, making their eyebrows go up and down. I love it when they learn how to do that. Their facial expressions are hilarious! Pretty much anything a preschooler can do falls into the WATCH THIS category, simply because they think anything they learn how to do deserves a WATCH THIS moment.

**This month**, this story is retold. God sends an angel to tell Mary the good news. Jesus is born. The angels tell the shepherds. And, once they see baby Jesus, they tell everyone! Then the wise men come and worship God's Son. If we're not careful, we can easily forget that the story we've heard a million times is brand new for many of the preschoolers who will be hearing for the first time this year. The story we get to share with preschoolers this time of year is so special that we need tell it with excitement and wonder so that our children are excited about it too! We want to tell the true story of Christmas in a way that communicates to preschoolers that Jesus really is the best gift ever! **He's a very special delivery!**



**In January**, we're going to run with that theme and the words 'WATCH THIS!' will be said... A LOT! For all of you science experiment fans, you're going to have a blast! Any messes that will be made will be TOTALLY worth it. We want to invite preschoolers to WATCH THIS as we do a few impressive things so we can lead them to the ONE who can do ANYTHING! The goal for this month is to learn that Jesus is the one to watch, because JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING!

**In February**, we will learn of the woman at the well, Zacchaeus, the unloved woman, and Peter. Jesus showed love to all of these people, and it's the same kind of love He has for you and me and every preschooler that we get to teach each Sunday. We want our preschoolers to grow up knowing that Jesus loves us all, no matter what, and He will never stop loving us.



**Does your child need a folder? The Sunday Funday Folders are great ways to keep track of your kids' papers, allow them to keep track of points earned, and carry home items worked on in the lesson with parent cues to review lessons each week.**



# WEEKEND TO REMEMBER



FAMILYLIFE® presents  
weekend to  
remember®



FAMILYLIFE® presents  
weekend to  
remember®

get away.  
come together.



GREAT MARRIAGES

DON'T JUST

*happen.*



Weekend to Remember is a two-and-a-half day weekend getaway that equips couples with practical tools and resources. Don't just survive, discover a marriage that THRIVES!

February 23-25

location: Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

group name: FFCFamily

contact: Pastor Josh Taylor  
joshtaylor@goffc.org

to register: go to [weekendtoremember.com](http://weekendtoremember.com)

join our  
group to  
**SAVE**  
**\$100**  
per couple!



## About Weekend to Remember

Remember how captivating it was when you first fell in love with your spouse? Every moment was special. As real life takes over, that memory can grow less vivid, and you might not feel like the center of their world as often. That's where the Weekend to Remember® marriage retreat from FamilyLife comes in.

The two-and-a-half day romantic weekend getaway is a time to be together as a couple to invest in and strengthen the foundation of your marriage, no matter how firm or fragile it is. By getting away from the distractions of life, you can fortify your most important relationship and work toward building wonderful memories together, for decades to come.

The Weekend to Remember marriage retreat is not a large group counseling session or small group discussion. You won't be asked to share intimate details of your relationship with anyone. You will listen to engaging talks from marriage experts, then take private time alone with your spouse to work on the concepts you studied. When you leave, you will have an assortment of powerful, Christ-centered communication tools to use for years to come.

It doesn't matter if you have been married 50 years or just 5 minutes, marriages take work and TLC. Take some time and be intentional about continually growing in your relationship with your spouse. Join the FFC group this year at the Weekend to Remember. You can register at [www.weekendtoremember.com](http://www.weekendtoremember.com). Use FFCFamily to save \$100 per couple! For more info, contact Pastor Josh.

What does a **WEEKEND TO**  
**REMEMBER®** look like?

## Winter Schedule:

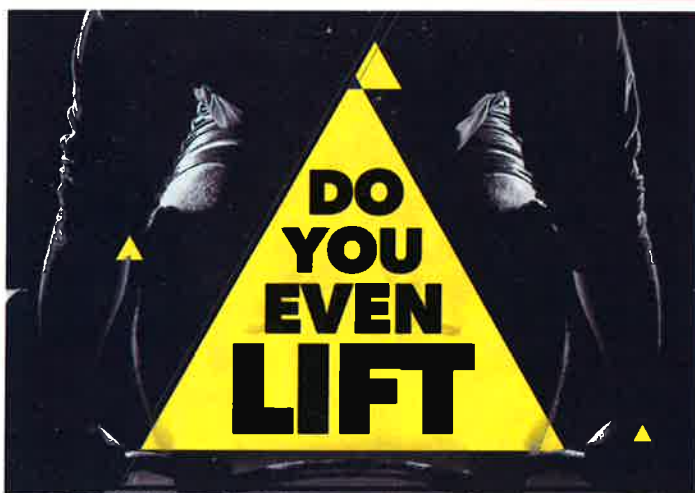
Christmas Party: December 8 at 7 p.m.

Perfect North Trip: January 6

FlipSide Lock-in: January 14-15 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Disciple Now Retreat: February 16-18

## LESSONS AT FLIPSIDE



This 4-week series, on the life of Samson, teaches students that a set-apart life increases the good reputation of God. Begins in January.

## DISCIPLE NOW RETREAT



Plan on signing up for this awesome weekend focused on unity! Dates are Feb. 16-18. Registration and more details coming in January.

## MISSION: CINCINNATI



Looking to make a difference here in Cincinnati? Wanting to make a huge impact for Jesus? Then we have something awesome and perfect for you! Join us this summer as we take on Cincinnati for our yearly mission trip. All ages are encouraged to join the team as we set out to make an impact for Christ in our city!

**Dates:** July 8-13

**Cost:** TBD

More details to come! If you have questions, contact Pastor Josh.

## FLIPSIDE LOCK-IN



Are you ready to stay up all night? If not, you better hibernate til the annual FlipSide Lock-in! Expect inflatable obstacle courses, photobooth, games, food and more! Coming January 14-15. Cost is \$10. All youth are encouraged to sign up and invite friends!

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

**Where:** FFC

Sign up in the youth starting December 17th.



## LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are the heart and soul of FFC. It is where the body of Christ can gather together throughout the week and literally do life together! Through reflection on God's Word, fellowship, prayer and so much more, Life Groups allow each member to stay connected, feel loved and grow in Christ! Join one today!

**Life Groups**  
*Sharing the Journey*

### CURRENT LIFE GROUPS!

#### Delhi Life Group:

Meets each Wednesday at 6 p.m.

#### Colerain Life Group:

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7 p.m.

#### Women's Life Group:

Meets once a month at 6 p.m.  
(dates vary, usually 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday)

#### Bridgetown #1 Life Group:

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m.

#### FFC Life Group:

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at Noon

#### Bridgetown #2 Life Group:

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7 p.m.

#### Young Adult Life Group:

Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

\* For more information on meeting times and places, please contact the FFC office or stop by the guest services area and pick up a list of groups currently meeting!

## STAFF & LEADERS

**John D. Wodetzki**  
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Office Administrator  
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scotthouser@goffc.org



Looking for a Kitchen Coordinator,  
If you are interested in hearing  
more about this volunteer posi-  
tion, contact the office.

## SERMON SERIES

Following **Solid, A look at 1<sup>st</sup> Peter**, we will be looking at the Kings of Israel and Judah, and the lessons we can learn from them, both individually and as a country.

### Give us a King – A study of the Kings of Israel

We are all familiar with the story of the prophet Samuel. (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8) When he grew old his sons did not follow in the ways of the Lord. The people grew concerned that there would be no one to judge them and asked Samuel to appoint them a king. Though Samuel did not like the decision, acting for the people, he took their request to the Lord.

## GIVE US A KING

A STUDY OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL



Faith Fellowship Church offered a free "Dinner with Santa" at the Miller Stockum American Legion Hall in Cleves on Saturday evening, December 2. LaRosa's spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread and home made desserts were served. Faith Fellowship Church members cooked and served dinner to about 200 grateful guests from the Cleves community at the Legion Hall. Many children attendees had the opportunity to meet Santa Claus and obtain a stuffed animal.

This Cleves' American Legion Hall is located in a home built in the 1800's. When Faith Fellowship Church added decorations, this home became a charming venue for the Christmas Dinner.

This was the fourth annual such event held by Faith Fellowship Church. The first three were pancake "Breakfasts with Santa" held at Faith Fellowship Church. In an effort to reach a different set of neighbors, Pastor John and Pastor Josh decided to move this 2017 outreach to Cleves. Their purpose was accomplished and the event was a clear success. Thank you Lord and thank you everyone who helped and donated desserts.



**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Worship**

#### JOIN US IN PERSON

FFC has been serving the West Side of Cincinnati for almost 200 years, and are glad you are here.

Share this newsletter with a friend or family member!

#### MONTHLY CALENDARS OF EVENTS

Monthly printable calendars are available on our website at: <http://www.goffc.org/calendar/> (right click on the calendar, save image as, then print)

#### JOIN US ONLINE

Can't join us in person? Our services are streamed online using our YouTube channel, Faith Fellowship Church Cincinnati

Miss a service? You can listen to past messages on our website. <http://www.goffc.org/sunday-sermons/>

*Sharing the journey*

