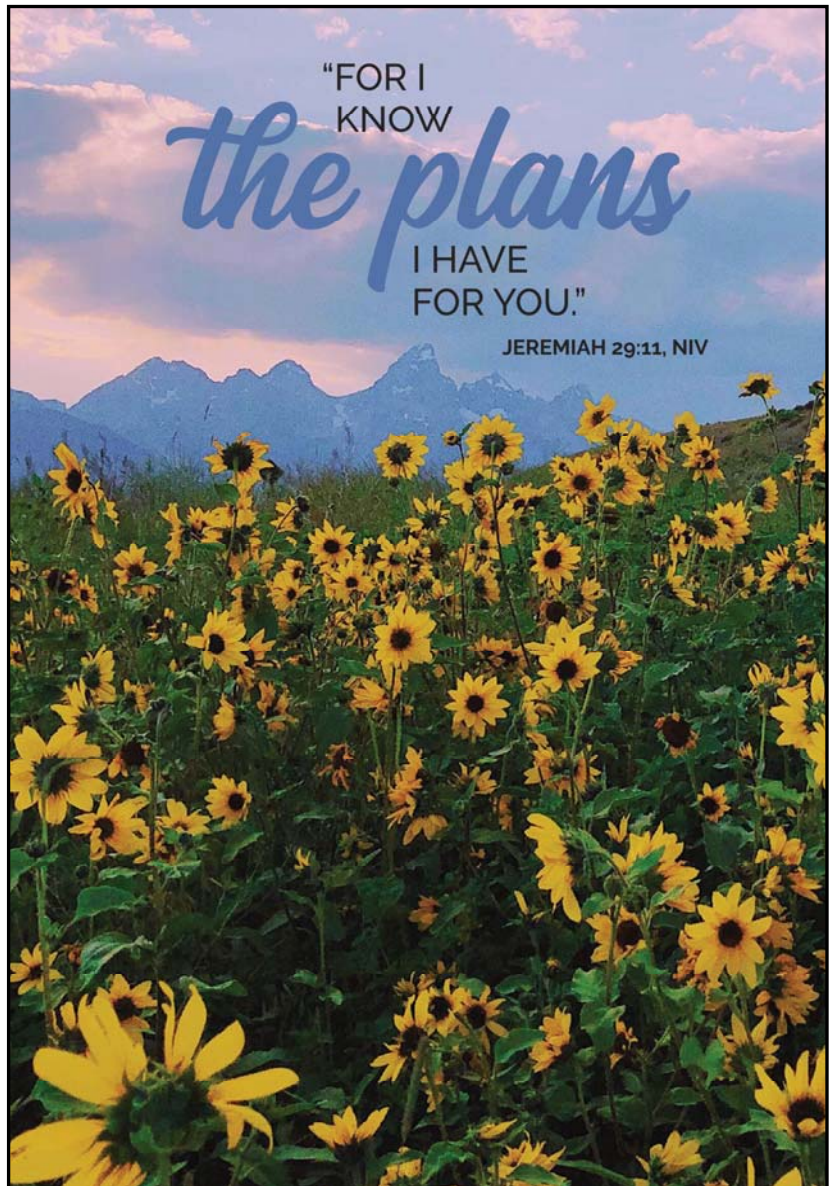


# FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS



**Back To School!**



***To see all people **WORSHIP** God,  
**CONNECT** with His people,  
and join His **MISSION** in this world.***

# **Worship the Lord with Us!**

## **Sunday Worship**

**Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 am**

**Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 am**

**Contemporary Worship Service: 10:45 am**

***Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all in-person worship activities are cancelled until further notice.***

***Please visit [www.fumccollingswood.org](http://www.fumccollingswood.org) for our online worship experience.***

**FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS is published by:**

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**Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**  
**(Closed for lunch 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)**

***FIRST CHURCH WINDOWS***

***is online at***

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***[ewindows@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:ewindows@fumccollingswood.org)***  
***to subscribe.***

# *In Windows This Month...*

<b>From the Pastor's Heart .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sermons and Scriptures .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Announcements .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Missionary Messages.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Birthdays and Anniversaries .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The Kid's Page.....</b>	<b>10</b>



The submission deadline for the *October* issue of Windows is September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING WINDOWS!**



First Church Windows is only available online and in full-color due to the COVID pandemic.





# From The Pastor's Heart



Every summer we enjoy summertime activities with friends and family; it's a great time to renew and relax. As we reflect upon this year and the pandemic and all that's a part of our lives, we see that everything is so different this year. We don't go to the same places or do the same things. Our summer plans have changed quite a bit compared to other years. Our goal to renew and relax remains this year.

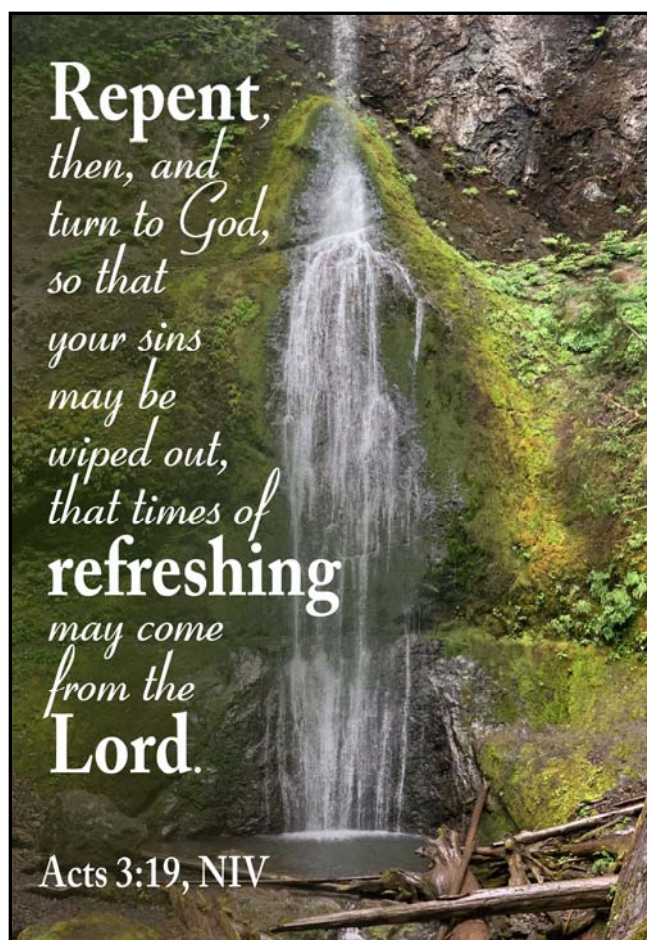
In fact, it is needed more than ever. But how do we accomplish this in the midst of a pandemic year? Lisa and I are trying to walk, ride bikes and do whatever we can to renew and physically recharge. In fact, we just bought a corn hole game! Hopefully we'll go on the professional circuit someday.

As important as it is to recharge our physical and emotional batteries, we also need to take time to recharge our "soul" or spiritual lives. The words "soul quenching" come to mind...when the depths of our spiritual lives are recharged, renewed, made fresh and transformed by the warmth of God's presence deep within us.

We are beginning a new sermon journey in September called "Simple Prayers, Faithful God." One of those prayers we find in Ephesians 3:16-21. It's a prayer for those desiring that deeper love of Christ in our lives. Written by Apostle Paul to the church 2000 years ago, it still has such meaning for you and I today! In verses 17-19, 21 I was encouraged by the depth of God's love, simplicity of God's love and impact of God's love. ***And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us.***

When we are renewed and refreshed by God's love in our quiet times, worship and reading God's word, something spiritually happens within us that is life changing. That's what Paul's prayer is all about for the church in his day and today! This week I read this quote and a few thoughts that follow: ***"Once God's love changes you, it overflows and impacts your family, your church, and everyone around you."*** (Revive page 7)

*In the times we are facing, how important it is to remember these words, to even pray this prayer and know*



even when we are facing some difficulties that God is ABLE!

In the day we live in, I find Jesus' love is the hope and solution to our greatest problems. He has chosen to work today through His people (1 Corinthians 12:27) to reveal Himself as "the light of the world" (John 9:5) and through us (Matthew 5:13). Oswald Chambers: *"The greatest secret of a holy life lies not in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfections of Jesus manifest themselves in my life daily. It is His patience, his love, his holiness, his faith, his purity, his godliness, that is manifested in and through every sanctified soul."*

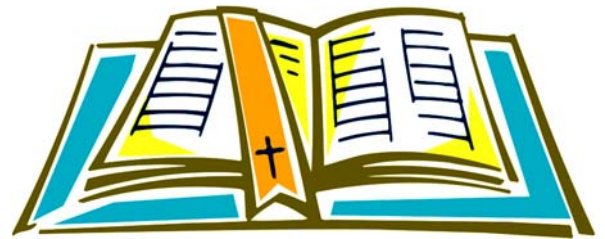
How are we going to live Jesus' love out today? Abraham Kuyper was a brilliant theologian who also served as prime minister of the Netherlands. He observed: *"No service in itself is small / None great, though earth it fills / But that is small that seeks its own / And great that does God's will."* What a wonderful thing it is to be spiritually renewed in Him.

As we look to a new season may God guide and lead us together. Know you are in our thoughts and prayers!

In our Lord's love and grace,  
Pastor Sam

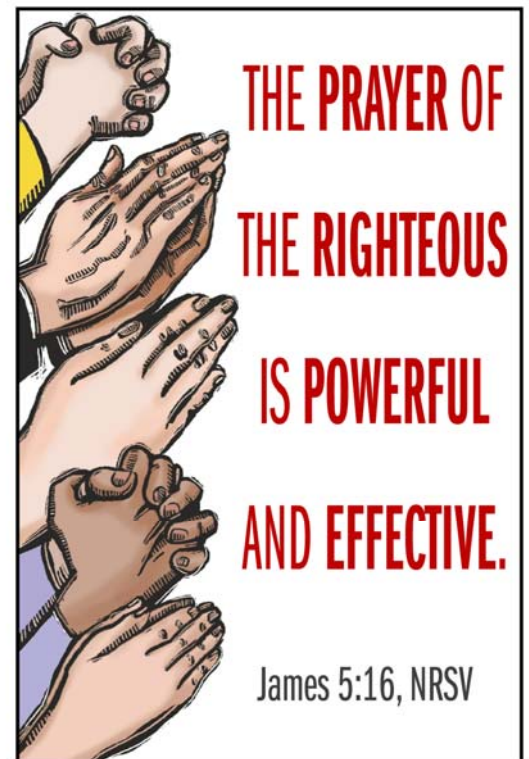
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## UPCOMING SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES



### SIMPLE PRAYERS... FAITHFUL GOD!

Throughout time people have journeyed with God in all types of life seasons. As the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a season for everything and a time and purpose under heaven for everything. God has everything including the pandemic, all the world's challenges, pain and problems under his control. As we look to God, we can also discover new opportunities for fresh grace and fresh faith in the spaces and places of our lives that have maybe never existed before. No matter what we face, the Lord can guide us through. There are several things that will help us grow in this process. We need to be rooted in God's word, guided by His presence and encouraging one another consistently. This can happen in many ways. As we love one another and pray for one another something dynamic happens. We have been experiencing some of this kind of blessing this summer from the porch. Our next sermon series beginning in September is "Simple Prayers... Faithful God!" Join us in this journey as we pray and God leads us with new opportunities to see Him at work!

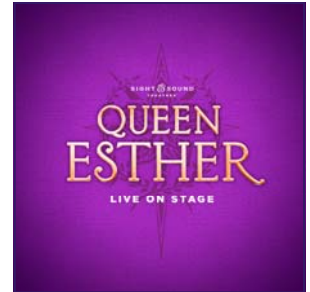


September 6	A Prayer of Hope - Part 1	Shawn
September 13	A Prayer of Hope - Part 2	Communion Sam
September 20	A Prayer for Freshness	Sam
September 27	A Prayer for Guidance	Matt





If you purchased a ticket to see Queen Esther at sight and Sound, we have been rescheduled for a date in early spring which has not yet been determined. Queen Esther may be a senior citizen by the time we see her!



## Daily Prayer on the Porch



Your pastoral staff is trying to navigate with you through these days. Daily prayer continues to meet on Pastor Sam's and Lisa's front porch with social distancing. All are invited to come by for a simple prayer time. The porch will be open Monday through Thursday between 12:00-12:30 pm, at 638 Park Ave. Wear your masks please! We know there is power in prayer when God's people bring themselves before Him. We can cast our every care before the Lord each day, knowing He cares. Prayer can surely make a difference! There is also a prayer box at front of the house or you can email Pastor Sam or the staff.

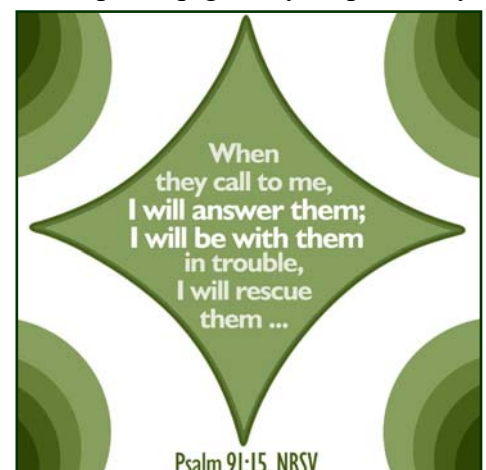
## Opportunity to Serve Our Community



In light of the things that so many people are facing these days we have a special opportunity to bring Christ's love. Our community has a website online for volunteers to help with community needs right here in Collingswood during this "stay at home" time. It is run by the Borough of Collingswood and is called "Collingswood Cares." Here is the link: <http://www.collscares.org>.

They are looking for volunteers to help SAFELY pick up grocery or pharmacy items for people in our Collingswood community who cannot get out for these items. The volunteers will purchase these items using funds and gift-cards from the town or our church, using all the usual safety protocols we are already using when we do our own shopping. The items will then be dropped off by the front door, rather than handing it directly to person in need. That way everyone remains safe.

If you're looking for a way to serve, simply go to the "Collingswood Cares" site and click on the button to put in your volunteer information. Our church is helping to coordinate needs and volunteers along with other chaplains and pastors in our town. Please join us in prayer and action as we care for others around us. Let's continue to pray and find one person to call today.



# **MISSIONARY MESSAGES**



**Larry and Fay Buckmann, FL**

We are doing our theological training via Zoom in both Portuguese and English. In Colorado Springs we have 4 students working on their BS in Bible. One of those is Justin Gracier, a handyman by day and a student by night. Apologetics is directed to first year students to help them defend our faith in God and His Word. I have learned so much from students who know how to use social media to create something like this survey. Now I'm thinking of ways to use it in Brazil and Africa.

This week I received a call from Charles, a MINTS professor, who directs the prison theological program in central Florida. I just completed my application to teach in some of our state prisons just miles from our house. He wanted to know if the MINTS courses recorded in our video studio would be available on DVD for prisoners. We have about 200 students in 7 prisons. We are seeing an uptick in prisons requesting degrees in theological education. The crunch we are facing is that inmates are completing their courses in two weeks instead of one month. In other words, prisoners are graduating with a BS in Theology in two years instead of four. Every prison with MINTS students has reported that the violence has decreased. So the word is getting around. We've already had our first graduation for 12 inmates this last year. Now they are working on their MS in Theology.

As followers of Christ we know that He is sovereign over everything that happens in our world and to us personally. The evidence shows how drastically our ministry is growing in ways we never imaged. Please continue to pray for our indigenous missionaries we train and support in Brazil and Mozambique. Every week we train 27 indigenous missionaries across the Amazon basin. Our brothers in Mozambique are writing asking us to return for more training. We presently support a Malawi and Mozambique team of pastors who continue training on the border, since entrance into Mozambique is prohibited. Those seven Mozambican students go back into the remote areas with the materials and lessons to be retaught. These two examples prove that what the world sees as evil, God meant it for good as leaders are being discipled and the church is strengthened.

**Neale and Barbara Goetch, SC**

Have you ever heard or used the expression “caught between a rock and a hard place?” Apparently, the phrase originated when Arizona copper miners in the early 1900s faced a dilemma—continue to mine under the appalling conditions imposed by the mining company, or face unemployment and poverty—a choice between two very unpleasant alternatives. Political leaders today might feel equally trapped: seek to get economies energized and schools reopened at the risk of increased Covid-19 cases, or endure the consequences of continuing restrictions.

I’ve been thinking about two Bible characters to whom the phrase might be applied. However, there is a major difference in the experiences of both Moses and Elijah; neither were caught or stuck between two equally unpleasant or difficult situations. While both found themselves in very hard places, they also found themselves directed by God Himself TO Himself as a ROCK upon whom they could depend and in whom they could find refuge.

There wasn’t anything easy about Moses’ 40 year ministry. Descending Mt. Sinai with the Law only to find God’s people worshipping a golden calf, he responded by smashing the tablets. God’s response was, Let

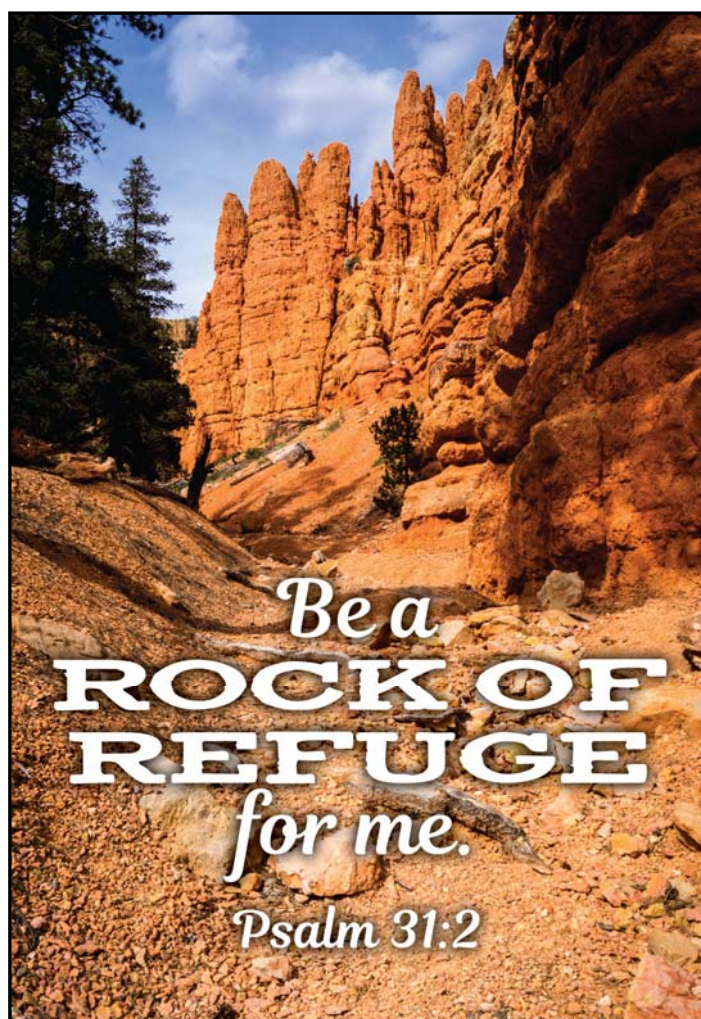
me alone, that I may consume them. I'll make of you a great nation instead, Moses (Exodus 32.) Moses intercedes, God repents, and then, back up on the mountain puts Moses in a cleft of a rock and reveals His glory, reassuring Moses of His continuing presence.

Elijah also found himself in a very hard place. Victory over Baal on Mt. Carmel resulted in the queen's threatened reprisal. Fleeing for his life, Elijah was ready to throw in the towel. Pouring out his heart to God he cried, I've been very jealous for the LORD God...I only I am left and they seek my life (1 Kings 19.) At God's direction, Elijah goes to Horeb (Horeb and Sinai are the same place) where God hides Elijah in the cleft of a rock (was it the same place Moses stood centuries earlier?) God very personally and intimately, in a still small voice, revealed Himself to His struggling child.

I've been struck by the question God asked Elijah: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" I think we might paraphrase that, "Why are YOU of all people—why are YOU HERE in this dreadful state of fear and forgetfulness?" After all, you have experienced of My faithfulness these past years—the brook, the ravens, the widow, the unending supply of oil and flour, protection from Ahab's wrath and the victory at Carmel and the rain that came when you prayed—"Why are YOU HERE, Elijah?"

Each of us have experienced hard places in our walk with and service for Jesus. But we are never forsaken. In Elijah's case, God surprised him revealing there were 7000 others who had not bowed to Baal. Hannah's song of praise and prophetic prayer can be ours in whatever hard place we might be experiencing: There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside Thee: neither is there ROCK like our God (1 Samuel 2.2.)

In every hard place, we have a sheltering ROCK in which to hide—JESUS!







Sept. 2	Lew Farling	Sept. 16	Britny Molloy
Sept. 4	John Mark Hamilton	Sept. 18	Nancy Creely Joan Ferrara
Sept. 6	Pat Gunning	Sept. 24	Kyleigh Hamilton
Sept. 7	Pastor Sam Mountain	Sept. 25	Ed Detwiler
Sept. 11	Barbara Rapp	Sept. 26	Kathy McGaurn Dean Stefano
Sept. 12	Rhonda Fraley	Sept. 30	Nancy Gross Karen Kline Gary McGaurn
Sept. 13	Marion Wertz		
Sept. 15	Harry Rameriz		

If you have not already done so, please give your dates (birth dates and anniversary dates) to the church office in writing or by e-mail: [maria@fumccollingswood.org](mailto:maria@fumccollingswood.org).



Sept. 6	Bill and Barbara Brown
Sept. 10	Steve and Michelle Latch
Sept. 14	Bernard and Carol Beals
Sept. 15	Armand & Jean LeBlanc
Sept. 21	Ed & Ruth Detwiler

?? ?

## Bible Quiz

? ??

Which of these was not one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

- A. an abundance of frogs
- B. the Nile River turned to blood
- C. the collapse of the pyramids
- D. thick darkness

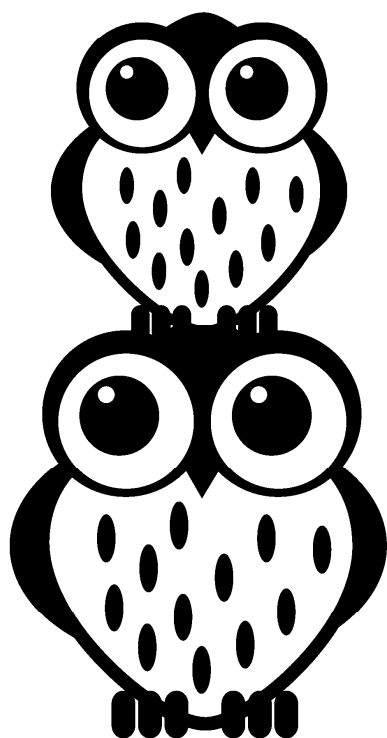
Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)



# WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



school	— <input type="text"/> — — —
paper	— <input type="text"/> —
wisdom	— — <input type="text"/> —
read	— — — <input type="text"/>
play	— — — — —
learn	<input type="text"/> — — — —
grow	— <input type="text"/> — — — —
pencils	— — — —
pray	— <input type="text"/> — —
art	— — — —
student	— — — <input type="text"/> — —
kids	— — <input type="text"/> — — — —
apple	— — <input type="text"/> — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

# Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

## CODE

A	1	B
D		E

F	2	G
H		I

K	3	L
M		N

O	4	R
S		T

U	5	V
W		Y

T  
 4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

“ 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 , 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1 ”

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

## A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

### What you need:

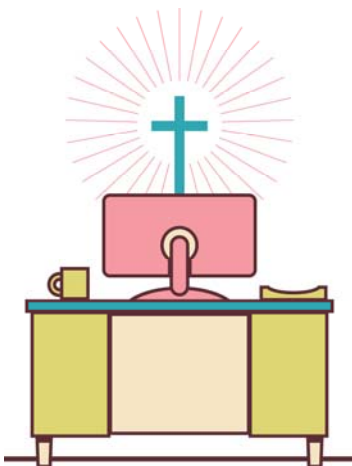
- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



### What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!





## WITNESSES AT WORK

It is at work more than at church that the real moral — and immoral — decisions are being rendered about the health of our planet, our bodies, our children, our very souls.

Work is the adult arena for spiritual decision-making, whether we are talking about the waste our species spews into the earth, or the violence and titillating sex that dominates our television programming, or the inane political issues that get raised to fever pitch in order to drown out the real issues. It is in our work ... that the moral issues of our lives play out. And ... it is in our work that spirituality itself will be redeemed.

—Matthew Fox, *Confessions*



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