

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 UNDERSTANDING THE ANCIENTS
Pastor Corey Laughary
- 2 BOOK REVIEW: NOT A FAN
Tina Laughary
WORSHIP TEAM NEWS
- 3 NEXTSTEPS
STARTING POINT
BIBLE STUDIES
BAPTISM
MEMBERSHIP
- 4 UGANDA GIVING UPDATE
Pastor Corey Laughary
PANCAKE SUPPER
& TALENT SHOW SUCCESS
WOMEN'S RETREAT
- 5 GARPAL YOUNG LIFE
SUNDAY NIGHTS @ PFC
ESV STUDY BIBLES
- 6 PRAYER & PRAISE
BOOK NOOK
2017 BACCALAUREATE
- 7 CALENDAR
- 8 SERMON SCHEDULE

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UNDERSTANDING THE ANCIENTS

Pastor Corey Laughary



"Pastor, I just tried reading the Old Testament and it just doesn't seem like the same book as the New Testament."

I've heard this statement or statements similar to it dozens, if not hundreds, of times. When you encourage people to read the Bible - *the whole Bible* - eventually they are going to read the more ancient scriptures that we call the "Old Testament."

Even if you have a good handle on the history of the Bible and a good understanding of the story of salvation, the Old Testament is going to be disorienting to the modern day Christian living in the USA.

Why?

- ♦ We are going back in time thousands of years - to a different culture with different language, values, and symbols than we now have.
- ♦ There are strange stories, lists of hard to pronounce names, detailed descriptions of buildings or laws or visions - things we just don't encounter often in our lives today.

So what should we do? Avoid the Old Testament? NO. Pretend like the Old Testament is the same as the New Testament? NO.

We should do something that might seem rather simple: Seek to understand the culture of the ancient Hebrews and others that we read about in the Old Testament. Though it may seem a simple idea, it is a lifelong endeavor and sometimes difficult task.

Why should we read the Old Testament? A couple of basic answers...

- ♦ Because it is God's Word and is useful for our spiritual growth (2 Tim. 3:16).
- ♦ Because it sets the stage for Jesus and His Gospel.

So where and how do I start reading the Old Testament? A couple of suggestions...

- ♦ Get a study Bible - Read the book introductions and use the study notes. Don't have a study Bible? The church can provide one if you are interested—just check the box on your Communication Card next time you are at the church or talk to me.
- ♦ Start with Genesis - and build a base of knowledge with the beginning stories.
- ♦ Attend Starting Point: Bible if you are able. You'll receive further instruction on Old Testament history, as well as tools to help you understand scripture.
- ♦ Attend worship these upcoming weeks. Starting April 30, and continuing through the end of May, my Sunday morning sermon series is titled "Understanding the Ancients." I'll be preaching sermons from Exodus that will help you obtain a better understanding of Ancient Judaism.

I am FAR from an expert on the Old Testament, but I am a student of it, and I know this - it is important to keep reading and learning. It is a rich experience that will improve not just your understanding of God's Word, but also your relationship with God.

Depending on Jesus,
Pastor Corey



BOOK REVIEW: “NOT A FAN”

Tina Laughary

Are you a committed follower of Jesus Christ? Or are you just a fan?

These are the questions Kyle Idleman challenges the reader to ask in his book, “Not a Fan.” As Kyle was preparing to preach an Easter message to more than 30,000 people, he became convicted that he was shaping a message intended to create more fans of Jesus—not followers. Let me explain.

A fan may identify themselves as a Christian. They may enjoy going to church, perhaps even a Bible study or a prayer group, but their motives are secretly selfish or shallow. They like how it feels to be part of a church community. They like the perks and benefits of church life. They like feeling loved and accepted by Jesus, learning impressive facts about him, even asking him for blessings and favors. They love Jesus—they are big fans.

In contrast, a follower of Jesus Christ will seek to make him Lord of their life. Here at PFC we would use the term “surrender.” A follower of Jesus willingly *surrenders* their



“Are you a committed follower of Jesus Christ? Or are you just a fan?”

life to Jesus—seeking to live for His purposes and His glory. They give of themselves, their time, money, effort and vision to serve Jesus and share His love with others. Their life truly isn’t their own—but Christ’s, to do with as he pleases.

The first part of the book is devoted to helping you “Define the Relationship.” It gives you the tools to self-diagnose your status as fan or follower. The second part is persuasive—arguing it is better, more fulfilling, to be a follower than fan. The third part talks about how to make the transition.

“Not a Fan” is a quick and readable book. Though it can be challenging it is understandable and relatable. Idleman is funny and personable and uses real life stories to illustrate his points. He has a way of pointing out convicting truth in a way that motivates—instead of just making you feel bad. If you are a new believer or you feel like your Christian walk is stuck in a rut or you just haven’t grown much depth in your relationship with Jesus—I highly recommend this book. If you know for sure you are a surrendered follower of Jesus I still recommend this book—it will help you better understand your friends and family who aren’t there yet.

Jesus doesn’t need more fans—he needs sold-out committed followers. Are you ready to surrender? It is a decision you will not regret.

WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Nancy Dernell

Has the Lord been impressing on your heart a desire to serve? There are many opportunities to serve throughout the church, but we have a **new need** for 11 AM Worship Team members. We are looking for faithful and willing hearts to join the 11 AM worship team starting this summer. To begin with, we’re asking for a commitment from June until the end of September.

You can be an integral part of the worship team whether you are an experienced musician or just a beginner. (Age is not an issue as long as you can behave yourself!)

Instruction and guidance can be provided for beginners, and experienced musicians will enjoy the opportunity to be part of a team.

The biggest requirement is a willingness to “be directed.” *We serve to the best of our ability to help others worship the Lord to the best of their ability.* Plain and simple, it is not about us—it’s about Jesus.

We are looking especially for the following:

- ♦ Bass Player (Instruction and instrument provided if necessary.)
- ♦ Male Vocal
- ♦ Keys (Instruction provided if necessary - really just a basic knowledge of rhythm and what the notes are is necessary.)
- ♦ Whatever musical skill the Lord has blessed you with - we will give you the chance to use!

And YES, we do practice for an hour once weekly (time to be determined). It may be that you will need to give something else up in order to serve in this way. Ask the Lord about it, and go with what HE tells you. You will never regret it.

Leading worship is about helping the church sing.

Contact: Nancy Dernell at (970) 217-6917



BISHOP PLACE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sundays at 1:30 PM. All are welcome.



NEXT STEPS

What's the next step in your spiritual journey?

Baptism?
Membership?
Bible Study?
Service?

Next class
May 21 @ 10:15 AM

Bible Studies

Monday

Ladies Bible Study
Sermon Scriptures
3 PM @ Tina Laughary's

Tuesday

Men's Way Too Early Study
Sermon Scriptures
5:30 AM @ PFC

Mom's Bible Study
& Parenting Class
Sermon Scriptures
8:15 AM @ PFC
Child Care Provided

New Testament Bible Study
10 AM @ PFC
(Child Care Available Upon Request)

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study
Sermon Scriptures
10 AM @ PFC

Starting Point: Bible
Wednesday, May 3
6:30 PM @ PFC

Empty-Nester Study Starting Soon
See Jim & Carol Fielder.

Young Adults Study Now Forming
See Tim & Tracy Lee Sievers.

READING & UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD STARTING POINT *Bible*

Starting Point is Starting Up

What is Starting Point?

- ♦ Starting Point is a once a month class for those new to the Bible to help you get a familiarity with it, and give you skills to study the Bible on your own and in a group.
- ♦ We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. *Childcare is available for those who need it.*
- ♦ Our first session is Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ Adults and teens are welcome to attend.
- ♦ Bibles are provided if you are in need.

If you are new to reading the Bible, want basic background on the Bible, or a basic refresher of Bible study methods, then "Starting Point: Bible" is for you. Starting Point is a class where all questions are welcome - and encouraged!

If you are interested in Starting Point: Bible, fill out a communication card on Sunday, e-mail Pastor Corey thelaugers@yahoo.com or call his cell (509) 336-9154.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Do you care about the mission of PFC and our future as a local church? Are you a baptized Christian? If you answered yes to those two questions, then we hope you are a member of PFC. If not, would you consider becoming a member of PFC?

To learn more about church membership, consider attending the upcoming NextSteps class on May 21 at 10:15 AM in Pastor Corey's office, or contact Pastor Corey directly at thelaugers@yahoo.com for more information.



Have you been baptized? Baptism is a public demonstration of the change that Jesus Christ has done in your life. If you are a person who has depended on Jesus for forgiveness and new life - and you have not been baptized - please contact Pastor Corey to discuss the possibility of getting baptized soon.



UGANDA GIVING CHANGE

Pastor Corey Laughary

We are thankful for the consistent donations that have funded our Uganda mission relationship with the church and orphanage in Buwenge, Uganda. Your giving has allowed the church to give consistently to support food, education, medicine and clothing for the orphans and those who serve them.

We are making an important CHANGE in how we receive funds for Uganda. We are no longer collecting regular specified donations for Uganda. This is good news. This means the church will be providing directly for the Uganda Mission from our budget. This will provide needed consistency to our giving support.

Rather than treating the Uganda Mission as a special project fund that is supported by only part of the church family, the

Executive Board of PFC and the Uganda Team have agreed that it is most appropriate to support the Uganda Mission as an ongoing mission work of PFC, that is supported like all other missions we support.

If you currently are giving directly to Uganda, we encourage you to continue to give that amount directly to PFC. Know that the amount we are giving as a church to Uganda will not be changed by this decision, and it is currently fixed at \$1,000 monthly based on the needs in Uganda. And now the whole congregation's contributions will also be part of that calculation. This change provides more stability for the Uganda Mission, and we hope that we can develop some additional giving opportunities in the future to help strengthen the ministry in Uganda. If you have any questions you can ask Pastor Corey, Board Chair- Butch Smith, or Uganda Team Members - Angie Cochran, Kay Tronsen, Connie Kuehner or Robin Blair.



PANCAKE SUPPER & TALENT SHOW A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

What a great turnout! More than 25 youth came to serve at dinner and share their amazing talents; and more than 80 people attended the Talent Show. **\$950 in donations were received for PFC camp scholarships!**

Thank you for coming to eat, to watch the show and donate to this awesome fund for our area youth! What great support we have for our campers!

A special thank you to Daniel and Nicole Wegner for running the kitchen and to Pinky Glass for her amazing organization!

Heads Up Ross Point Campers:

It's a great time to sign up for camp! Summer camps start in only 8 weeks. Please see the camp bulletin board (at the top of the stairs to basement) for information such as dates, cost, scholarship forms, etc. and register online at rosspoint.org.

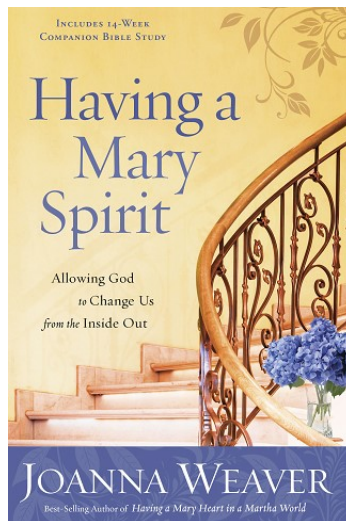


ROSS POINT WOMEN'S RETREAT

More than 60 ladies from the Northwest recently gathered together for a women's retreat at Ross Point Camp & Conference Center in Post Falls, ID. Retreat participants experienced a "Holy Makeover" facilitated by retreat directors Norma Swartz and Betty Sawyer, together with worship leaders Tracy Lee Sievers, Kay Tronsen and Nancy Dernel.

"I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God."

Ezekiel 11:19-20



Ladies came from Idaho, Montana, and Washington to examine scripture and learn about transformation from Joanna Weaver's "Having A Mary Spirit" DVD curriculum.

The key verse for the week-end was Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a Right Spirit within me."

More than 12 Palouse area ladies attended and returned with "hearts made new."



SUNDAY NIGHTS AT PFC

5 PM | Community Dinner
 5:30 PM | Discussion
 Spiritual Gifts & Disciplines
 6 PM | Simple Service & Communion

Childcare available starting at 5:30 PM

WHAT'S COOKING IN MAY?

Did you know that PFC hosts a weekly meal? **Every Sunday night at 5 PM** we gather in the fellowship hall to share a meal and good conversation. All are welcome! This is a great weekly event to bring a friend along with you. Each week has a "theme" and there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall where you can volunteer to bring an ingredient and/or come early and help us set up. Here are the meals you can look forward to in May:

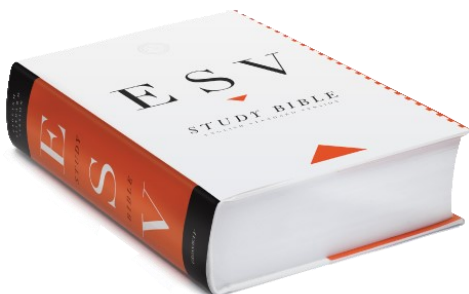
May 07 | Nachos
 May 14 | Baked Potato Bar
 May 21 | Breakfast for Dinner
 May 28 | BBQ

ESV STUDY BIBLES

Do you own a study Bible? Palouse Federated Church provides English Standard Version (a.k.a. ESV) Study Bibles free to anyone who wants one to study God's Word.

What is a study Bible? It's simply a Bible with lots of tools inside of it to help you understand what the Bible is saying. On virtually every page there are notes, references, maps, or other tools to help you understand what you are reading. The ESV study Bible has helpful articles as well.

If you need a study Bible, please get in touch with Tim Sievers or Pastor Corey in the church office at 878-1509.



PFC-Palouse Federated Church
 @PalouseChurch
 @Corey_Laughary
 pfc.palouse

Men's Breakfast will take place Saturday, May 20. We gather at 7:30 AM to cook and start eating at 8 AM. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and a friend.

SOUP & SUPER BIBLE STUDIES WITH YOUNG LIFE

Betty Sawyer



What do you do when you volunteer to make soup for Young Life Campaigners Bible Study and set the table for 12 with your 12 matching soup bowls and 18 people show up—hungry and talkative—filling your home with energy and noise?

The answer: Put your worry aside and instead put your son and husband to work setting an additional table, finding every extra chair in the house, add water to the soup and start dishing it up. The soup lasts! And, it turns out to be a wonderful night with lots of young people enjoying your home.

Young Life Campaigners Bible Study meets every other Monday with the Young Life Committee and friends of Young Life serving up soup and bread before the Bible time begins. Recently, 8 young adult leaders (mostly from WSU and other colleges) and 10 high school kids took time to read from the gospel of John and heard the greatest story ever told. They heard about Jesus, his crucifixion and resurrection. And they shared and prayed together. It was a wonderful thing to witness.

YOU can contribute soup on May 1 or May 15; students love it. And we love them! Committee members continue to pray for every high school student by name, and many of them have been touched by Young Life ministries.

Please join us in praying for our students and for seeds of faith to continue to be planted and to grow!



Did you know there's an Oikos app for iPhone and Android? Search "8to15" in your app store and you'll be on your way to receiving daily reminders to pray for your Oikos!

Prayer & Praise



Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Tecla Blood—recovering from shoulder surgery.
- ◆ Tom Turnbough (Tina Laughary's brother) recovering from heart surgery.
- ◆ Catherine Tuck—recovering from broken pelvis.
- ◆ Brittany Sawyer's cousin Todd—recovering from cancer surgery.
- ◆ Honey Gibler's cousin April—recovering from back surgery.
- ◆ Bruce Baldwin—recovering from bone marrow transplant.
- ◆ Patty Myott and her declining eyesight.
- ◆ Donna Thompson (cancer)
- ◆ Callie Anderson (4-year-old with cancer)
- ◆ Judy Hart (stroke)
- ◆ Sue Foster (cancer)
- ◆ Brenda Brown (cancer)
- ◆ Meredith Willcox-Norris (cancer)
- ◆ Carol Heinlen's niece Barbara (cancer)
- ◆ Pray for an additional female youth leader to join our ministry.

Prayer Requests Continued:

- ◆ National and community leaders.
- ◆ Your Oikos—those that God has strategically and supernaturally placed in your life.
- ◆ Active duty service members.

Praises and Prayers for these Missions and Ministries:

- ◆ Praise God for the Bishop Place worship service. Pray for Pastor Matt Jorgens and his family.
- ◆ Pray for the Bible study at Eastern State Hospital and the residents.
- ◆ Praise God for providing volunteer youth ministry leaders. Pray for youth to come to Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our missionaries and partner church and orphanage in Uganda (pastors, teachers, orphans).

Remember our Shut-Ins:

Richard Keyser
Reuben Merry
Virginia Baldwin

Patty Myott
Joanie Bagott
Arnetta Tompkins

Bob & Dory Tuttle
Don Gilliland

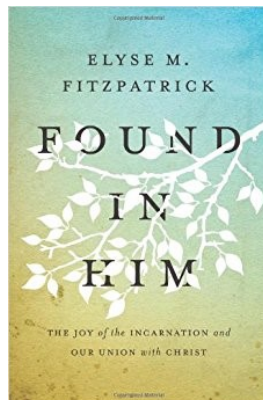
BOOK NOOK



READ & LEARN WITH PASTOR COREY

Found in Him
by Elyse Fitzpatrick

This book is deeply encouraging. Profoundly biblical, in the best sense, Fitzpatrick gives the reader the essence of the Christian faith and in doing so builds the reassurance we have when we are "Found in Him."



Twenty Seventeen

BACCALAUREATE



Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 7 PM
Garfield Christian Fellowship

303 N. 3rd St. | Garfield, WA

PALOUSE FEDERATED CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	2 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 10 AM Bible Study*	3 10 AM Ladies Bible Study* 6:30 PM Starting Point	4	5	6
7 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 PM Youth Group 5 PM Community Dinner 6 PM Simple Service	8 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	9 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 10 AM Bible Study*	10 10 AM Ladies Bible Study*	11	12	13
14 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 PM Youth Group 5 PM Community Dinner 6 PM Simple Service	15 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	16 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 10 AM Bible Study* 7 PM Board Meeting	17 10 AM Ladies Bible Study*	18	19	20 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast
21 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Sunday School NextSteps 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 PM Youth Group 5 PM Community Dinner 6 PM Simple Service	22 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's 6:30 PM Life Lessons Garfield Community Church	23 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 10 AM Bible Study*	24 10 AM Ladies Bible Study*	25	26	17
28 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Sunday School 11 AM Worship 1:30 PM Bishop Place 3 PM Youth Group 5 PM Community Dinner 6 PM Simple Service	29 3 PM Ladies Bible Study @ Tina Laughary's	30 5:30 AM Way too Early Men's Bible Study* 8:15 AM Mom's Bible Study & Parenting Class* 10 AM Bible Study*	31 10 AM Ladies Bible Study* 6:30 PM Church Leader Training	JUNE 1 7 PM Baccalaureate Garfield Christian Fellowship	2	3 Bible studies with an * indicate they are held at PFC.

Depending on Jesus to Restore Our [Imperfect] Lives

MAY SERMONS

May 07	9 & 11 AM	Understanding the Ancients: Violence in the Old Testament	Exodus 23:20-33
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Live Worthy	Philippians 1:27-30
May 14	9 & 11 AM	Sean Neal	
	6 PM	Do Not Cling to Me Tim Sievers	John 20:1-23
May 21	9 & 11 AM	Understanding the Ancients: The Old Covenant	Exodus 24
	6 PM	Suffering and Pain	
May 28	9 & 11 AM	Understanding the Ancients: The Tabernacle	Exodus 25-31
	6 PM	Joy for the Journey: Dealing with Disunity By Humility	Philippians 2:1-4

ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Miss a Sermon? | www.pfc.palousechurch.org

Click on "Resources" then "Audio Sermons"
CDs or mp3 files also are available upon request—
contact Tim Sievers.

OIKOS PRAYER CARDS AVAILABLE

Oikos is a Greek word meaning extended household—it's the 8 to 15 people that God has supernaturally and strategically placed in your life—friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Nobody is better equipped to share the truth of Jesus with them than you. New Oikos prayer cards are now available for adults and children.



Palouse Federated Church
635 N. Bridge St.
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Our mailing address has changed.
635 N. Bridge St. | Palouse, WA 99161