

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and “at home.”

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

October 4, 2009

FUEL FOR THE JOURNEY - 4

“Reflection on Scripture ... shapes patience”

Luke 24:32

Your relationship with God increases as the spiritual exercises become a significant part of your daily routine of life.

- **Reflection on Scripture** ...not just reading the Bible ... is the absolute most effective, all-round spiritual exercise, and it helps you develop **Spirit-generated patience**.

Luke 24:32 (MSG) “Didn’t we **feel on fire** as he conversed with us on the road, **as he opened up the Scriptures for us?**”

1. TRUTH NEEDS A GUIDE

- The Bible’s potential is absolutely incredible, but until the Holy Spirit makes it real to you, it can be destructive.

Psalms 119:98 “Your commands make me wiser than my enemies.”

2 Corinthians 3:6b “...the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

- Bottom line: Raw truth needs a guide.

John 14:16-17a “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the **Spirit of truth**.”

John 16:13 (MSG) “...the Spirit of the Truth ... will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is.”

- If you will practice this spiritual exercise by taking time with God the Spirit, the Divine Mentor will instruct you through living interaction and make His Word – raw truth, become understandable, alive and energizing.

- The by-product of reflection on Scripture is the formation of **patience** in your inner being!

2. HOW THE GUIDE LEADS

- This isn’t rocket science ... anyone can have the Holy Spirit lead them.

- Our Divine Mentor coaches us in Psalm 23.

Psalms 23:1 “The Lord **is** my Shepherd” (vs. isn’t)

Does your lifestyle prove you have honestly chosen to allow God to be your King, your Shepherd?

- Digging Deeper -

For personal and small group study

Week of October 4, 2009

Psalm 23:1 "... I shall not want"

Does a person who has genuinely made God their shepherd have different "wants" than those who haven't chosen to do so?

Do all life's comforts, pleasures and possessions have the same appeal?

Does God reshape our "wants" when we transition from being self-centered to becoming Christ-centered?

Psalm 23:2 "He makes me to lie down in green pastures."

*Why would God have to **make** a person do this?*

What might it mean that God has to force a person to lie down?

Could it show you've been drawing too much energy from what you do instead of from the energy He provides?

What might He have to do in order to make us lie down so we can realign our values on this front?

Psalm 23:5 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."

What would you feel like in the face of giants in your life, such as insecurities, undependable memory, self-centeredness, inability to trust others, etc. in light of this truth?

- **God** is the **host** here, so He is the one who prepares a table for you in front of your enemy.

- That strong confidence comes when you choose to make the Lord your Shepherd and daily follow His leading.

- All these verses teach absolute volumes about God's character and nature, and who we are and how much we need Him.

- Here is the best part: **You can** reflect on Scripture AND the Holy Spirit will lead **you** and energize **you**, as He does for others.

- By reflecting on Scripture, you will find a deeper love and stronger trust in God, and develop the Spirit-generated patience you need to take you through tomorrow's trials.

- **You can** have the fire the disciples had on the Emmaus Road when you take time to allow the Spirit to open Scripture up to you.

Do you want to enjoy God in this way? Then reflect on Scripture.

1. What are you looking for when you read and reflect on Scripture ... information, comfort, understanding, guidance, a special word from God, communion with God? **Remember, knowing God more is more important than knowing more.** How does what you are looking for influence how you read and reflect on God's Word?
2. Read Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 4:12-13 and Deuteronomy 30:14. What do these verses reveal to you about the purpose of reflecting on God's Word? How do these verses reveal the heart of God? How does God's Word change you personally? Do you know any other scriptures that speak about the purpose and need to reflect on God's Word? [Psalm 119:36, 97, 103, 111]
3. The Fuel for the Journey Energy Pack cards 2, 6, 11, 17, 23, 30, 35, 38 are all on Bible reading and reflection on Scripture. Why do you believe there is such an emphasis put on this spiritual discipline? How have any of these practical exercises impacted you and helped you draw closer to God?
4. It is time to practice reflection on Scripture. As a group, or in smaller breakout groups of three or four, read Psalm 23. Begin with a verse that particularly stands out to you, or begin with verse one, and start reflecting on it. **Note the example** from the sermon notes on how to reflect by asking yourself questions. Write down your thoughts that come to you. Be as brief as possible.

Here is an example to help you get started. [Remember, this is just an example -- you must do this on your own in your group.]

Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd ..."

Begin by focusing on the word *shepherd*. Imagine a flock of sheep on a hillside with a shepherd overseeing them. Ask yourself, "What is the role of a shepherd? What do I think a shepherd feels about the sheep he is watching over? What is my view of a shepherd? How is a shepherd like God? How am I like a sheep? How does this affect my view of God? What is God revealing to me about the relationship the shepherd has with his flock and my relationship with God?"

When you are finished with your time of reflection, answer these questions:

What does this show me about God? ... about myself?

How does this affect my today and my tomorrow?

Pray about your discoveries ... and consider writing out your prayer.