

Jesus, Empathy Expert

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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Are you a fixer? If you're like me, you often get frustrated when you see an unsolved problem with an obvious solution. I like to see stuff get done and get done quick! When we study the ministry of Jesus, we learn that he wasn't just a fixer who jumped straight from problem to solution. Recall the story of Lazarus.

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, his friend Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus found Lazarus's sisters and several Jews weeping. These were unsolved problems. What was the obvious solution? "Lord, if you had been here, my brother may not have died"... 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'" (John 11:21, 32, 37 [ESV]) Why didn't Jesus just fix the problem as these people suggested? Further, why did Jesus wait to raise Lazarus from the dead? Read verses 33–36.

[33] When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. [34] And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." [35] Jesus wept. [36] So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Jesus saw a problem. Jesus would be the solution (vv. 43-44). However, Jesus didn't rush to fix what was broken. Alongside Mary, Martha, and the others, Jesus wept. He paused to *feel with* those mourning Lazarus' death.

Why did this matter? Look at the reaction of the Jews! Jesus wept, and the Jews saw Jesus's love. A moment of *empathy* revealed his love in a way that just fixing the problem could not have.

Countless times, Jesus used empathy to relate to people (see Is 53:3-5, Mk 10:17-22, Lk 7:37-39, Jn 4:4-26, Phil 2:6-7, Heb 4:15). Likewise, Paul calls us to use empathy to relate to people, specifically non-Christians. Paul wrote in Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (ESV)

Our world is full of hurting people. A lot of the time, people bring hurt upon themselves. We want people who hurt to know Jesus's love, but that doesn't mean we just tell people their problem and point them to the solution. Between recognizing distress and taking action, Christ-followers pause to show empathy. Feeling with others serves as a foundation for relationship. Empathy is imperative to helping someone in their hurt.

Often, we hear the phrase "facts don't care about your feelings." It's critical that Christians stand for truth (2 Timothy 2:15), but we cannot let our stance in the truth make us callous toward the hurt of others. Facts don't care about feelings, but Christians do care about feelings. Let's weep with those who weep so that God's love may be seen in us! Likewise, let's never overlook opportunities to rejoice with those who rejoice.

Caleb Boggs

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Jaren Dodson, Vern Foster, Joe and Teresa Freund, Coral Haggard, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Brylee King, Cheryl Neilans, McKinley O'Connell, Lyn Pendergraft, Andy Rasbury, Edith Toney.

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a coworker of one of our members whose son has been diagnosed with some medical issues and the family has made several trips to Kansas City. Between the medicine and travel, they were in need of some assistance. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



Devo and Donuts meets every Tuesday at 7:00 in the activities center. Come and invite a friend.

If you are not able to be at church, visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. .

Men's Breakfast will be this Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's. Come enjoy the early morning fellowship.

Ladies' Bible Class will resume this Thursday at 10:00 in the fellowship room with more study of forgiveness. Let Danny know if you need a book.



This Sunday's Sermons:

AM: Jason Jackson

PM: Jason Jackson

The youth group will be attending the **TriState Youth Series** this Sunday in Joplin. The van will leave at 3:30.

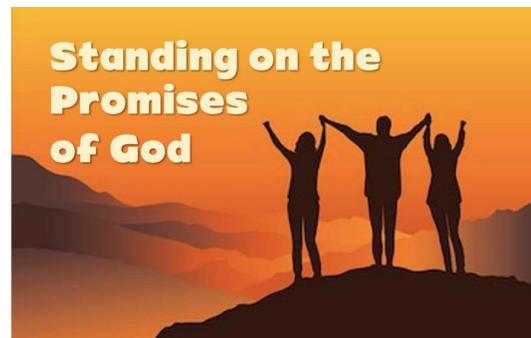
Our Week 2 Weekend at **GVBC** October 9-11 is shaping up and fast approaching! All our counselors are signed up and making plans, and they can't wait to see all the campers. The weekend is for everyone who would have been the right age for camp this summer: anyone who is at least 11 years old by October 1 through anyone who graduated from high school this year. Register today at www.neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend.



Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship at an all-church **campout** at Grand Lake State Park at Bernice, OK, October 23-25. The cost is \$4 per person per night. You are welcome to stay one or two nights, and we will have a worship service on Sunday morning. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office. For more information, contact Casey or Amanda Flint.

The **assignments** for October have been emailed to you if you have a task assigned to you. These include leading in worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, greeters, and those who help with cleaning the activities center. Please check you email. You can also pick up a copy of the assignments in the foyer.

Sunday is the beginning of our **gospel meeting** with Jason Jackson. We are looking forward to him sharing from God's Word on the subject of *Standing on the Promises*. The lessons will emphasize why our faith can and should persist, even in a year like 2020! We all can use that encouragement. Invite your friends, coworkers, and neighbors to come.



PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, October 4

Wednesday, October 7

AM Opening Prayer: John Deffenbaugh
 Communion Prayers: Zane Berner
 AM Closing Prayer: Bryan Reiboldt

Opening Prayer: Josh King
 Closing Prayer: Bill Reiboldt

PM Opening Prayer: Carl Thomlinson
 PM Closing Prayer: Carl Cobb

RECORDS

9-27-20

9-29-19

Bible Study	111	147
AM Worship	166	185
PM Worship	118	146
Wednesday	110	158
Contribution	\$8,098.67	\$9,111.88
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37