

Vol. 12, Issue 2, February 2023

connect

**JESUS
LOVES ME
THIS
*I Know***

FEB.

5th-26th
Bottles for our local
Pregnancy Resource
Center



12th

starting
point

5 pm in the HIS Way Cafe



12th

Night of Music
LIFT UP THE NAME OF JESUS

6 pm in the Auditorium



17-19th

RENEWING
THE MIND

D-NOW 2023



19th

Jason Lovins Band leads worship @ 9 & 10:45 am



2023

**Can't be here
in-person?**
Join us live Sundays
at 9 & 10:45 am
on Facebook, Imbc.tv,
or our LMBC app.

Also this month:

5th
Communion in the PM
• 6 pm, Worship Center

9th
Widows Love Luncheon
• 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

10th
PrimeTime Celebrates Love
• 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Menu: Salad, baked steak or
chicken, mashed potatoes,
green beans, hot rolls, apple
pie or cake. \$10 per person,
you must sign up and choose
your meat and dessert. Sign
up with Vida or Blanche,
or by calling the church office
(304-736-7676).

Are you involved in a Life
Group? Check-out pg. 19
for the latest info on all
of our groups. Need help
connecting, give us a call
or take a look online at
lmbc.org/groups

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible) pg. 9
Ebenezer pg. 17

Lewis KIDS connection

Visit lmbc.org/lkc or
ask to join our
Facebook group

*We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve in our
K-3 age range once a month in the first and second services on
Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the church office
or Rebekah Shaffer at r.shaffer@lmbc.org.

***Sunday Mornings**
WC lower level

5: God delivered His people
12: Zechariah gave hope
19: The people rebuilt the
temple
26: God can always be trusted

Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC

1: Bible for Life
8: Bible for Life
15: Bible for Life
22: **Talent Show**

4th Thursday
from 4-5:15 pm
@ Ebenezer

23: Bible Club

2022-2023

WINTER CALENDAR

REFUEL
STUDENTS

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@refuelstudents](https://www.instagram.com/refuelstudents)

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

1 D-NOW REGISTRATION OPENS 6:45-8:15pm
REGISTER @ REFUEL OR ONLINE

17-19 D-NOW WEEKEND '23
FRIDAY PM - SUNDAY AM

It's the biggest weekend of the winter, and you
won't want to miss it! Join us for our annual D-Now
Weekend Friday night through Sunday morning.
Register at Refuel or online at lmbc.org.



RENEWING THE MIND

On President's Day weekend (February 17-19), Refuel, the student ministry of Lewis Memorial, will host our 10th annual D-Now weekend for middle and high school students. Over the years, D-Now Weekend has served to create many fun memories and heart-changing moments in the lives of our teenagers. The purpose of this article is twofold. First, you will be given a glance inside D-Now Weekend, learning what makes it such a special, transformative event in the lives of those in our student ministry. Second, you will be given an opportunity to commit to praying for our students, leaders, and support team as they come together for a weekend of spiritual growth and renewal.

What is a D-Now Weekend?

An "At Home" Youth Retreat

A D-Now Weekend (short for "Disciple Now") is a youth retreat designed to be "at home." Many youth trips involve traveling and doing mission work at another location. What makes D-Now Weekend different is that we will stay in our own hometown and focus on our own church family and local community!

This year's D-Now Weekend theme is "Renewing the Mind." We'll spend time at the church on Friday evening and Saturday morning studying Romans chapter 12 together. We will be blessed to have the Jason Lovins Band leading worship through music with our students during the teaching portions of our weekend! Then, on Saturday afternoon, we'll serve Jesus together. Our students will take part in several projects around the community and within our local church family, including outreach at our Ebenezer center, and visiting senior adult members of the congregation who are homebound and assisting them with cleaning and small repairs around the house. For the "fun" element of the weekend, we have all-access passes to the attractions at Malibu Jack's, a local entertainment venue! We will enjoy time at Malibu Jack's on Friday night and participate in "The Amazing Race" - a high-stakes scavenger hunt - on Saturday night!

Time in God's Word

Our time in God's Word this year will center on the consequential Scriptural passage of Romans 12. This chapter marks a significant shift in the book of Romans as the apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, moves from describing the doctrinal undergirding of our salvation in Jesus (chapters 1-11) to the practical outworking of our new life with Him. Central to our new journey with Jesus is the imperative found in Romans 12:1-2.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed. By the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2 ESV).

Throughout our D-Now Weekend, students will be challenged to, in view of their salvation in Christ, renew their minds in four specific areas.

#1 - We must renew our minds about goals (Romans 12:1-2). We could never repay the debt of love we owe to Jesus. So, what should we, as believers, do in response to our salvation in Christ? God tells us through His Word that we are to present our bodies "As a living sacrifice." Our new lives in Jesus are no longer oriented around our wants and desires but instead around Jesus' teachings and His mission for us. This is the grid by which we evaluate life decisions: How will this decision glorify Jesus and advance His gospel?

#2 - We must renew our minds about serving (Romans 12:3-8). When the church gathers, everyone brings with them their God-given talents and abilities, and teenagers are no exception. Ask any of our adult leaders in Refuel about our students, and you'll quickly come to understand that teenagers excel in areas such as athletics, the arts, technology, and academics. Our students are talented. During D-Now Weekend, students will be challenged to utilize their talents for God by getting involved in the work of the church,

serving alongside other generations to build one another up as we advance the gospel together.

#3 – We must renew our minds about loving God’s people (Romans 12:9-13). The people of God are called to love each other with “brotherly affection” (Rom. 12:10). Of course, differences of opinion, personality, and upbringing can threaten the expression of such deep love, leading to indifference and division. Our students will be encouraged to cultivate a longsuffering, patient love toward their brothers and sisters in Christ that works itself out in practical, considerate acts of kindness and hospitality within the family of God.

#4 – We must renew our minds about loving those far from God (Romans 12:14-21). In a post-Christian culture, how should we as Christians act and react when facing persecution? How should we respond when others wish evil against us? Against a cultural backdrop of polarization and outrage, God’s Word calls us to, as much as possible, “Live peaceably with all” (Rom. 12:18). We remember the example of Jesus, who loved us when we were His enemies (Rom. 5:8). Students are, in many ways, growing up in a very different world than their parents and grandparents experienced as teens. Still, we believe God has them at this place and at this time for a reason. Our students will be urged to “Not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:21).



by Matt McClay

Matt McClay oversees the student ministry at Lewis. He was raised locally in Huntington, and married his wife April in March of 2011. In May of 2012, Matt and April welcomed their daughter, Addison, into the world. Matt has a heart for student ministry, the outdoors, and redeeming technology for God’s glory.

How can I help?

Would you consider praying for our students, leaders, and support staff as we approach this special weekend? Here are eight specific aspects of our D-Now Weekend in which we’re asking for prayer:

- That our students would grow in unity with one another.
- That cross-generational relationships would be formed between our students and senior adults.
- That our students would connect with God in worship.
- That students and leaders will commit to partnering together for long-term discipleship.
- That students will clearly understand God’s call to holy living in certain areas of their lives.
- That students respond in faith to a clear presentation of the gospel.
- That students surrender to the command to be baptized.
- That God gets the glory – no matter what!

D-NOW WKND '23

FEB. 17-19

RENEWING THE MIND

with special guests



JASON LOVINS BAND

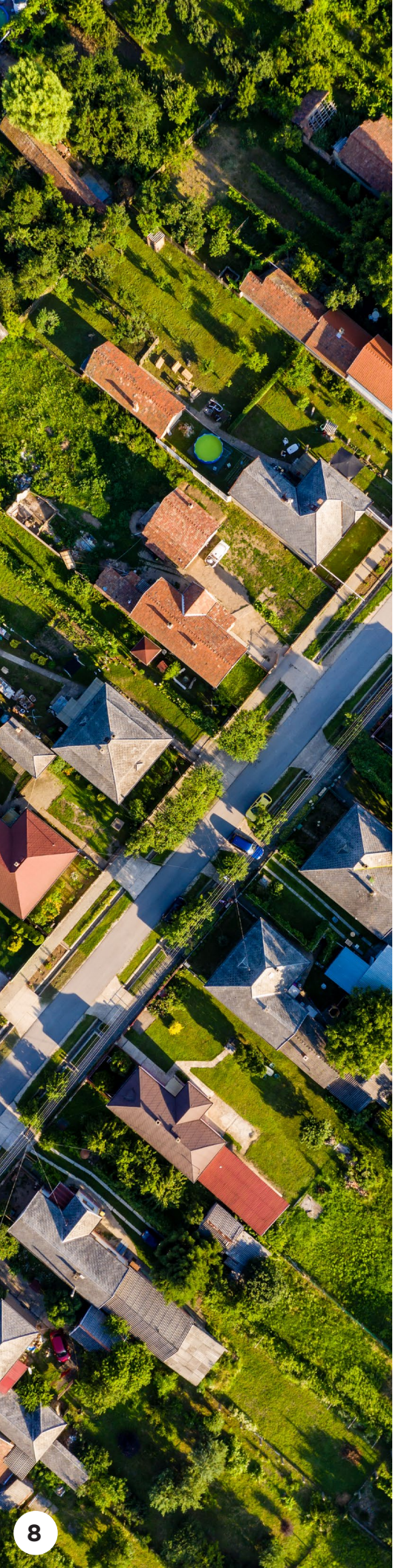
with special

**FOOD
BIBLE STUDY
SERVICE PROJECTS
THE AMAZING RACE
MALIBU JACK'S
MUSIC**

\$35
FOR THE
WHOLE
WEEKEND

REGISTRATION OPENS FEB.1





LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

IN FEBRUARY

Timothy

Dear Small Group Leader,

Hello! Thank you for being so faithful to participate in the Small Group Leader training in January. I sincerely believe we have THE best Small Group Leaders ever. You guys are awesome. I appreciate your love for the Lord, His Church, and our Pastor. Your dedication to the disciple-making mission of Jesus is second to none. You're a blessing to our Church family.

Second, I want to remind you of our monthly mission for February in the Love Where You Live (LWYL) outreach plan. Send five valentines cards to your five neighbors on your LWYL prayer card. Let your neighbors know you pray for them every day. Give them Valentines candy and use the connect cards (located in both lobbies) to invite them to church on Sunday morning. Also, look for practical ways to share the love of Christ with your neighbors during the month. Historically, February is a snowy month. Be prepared to shovel your neighbor's driveway and help them clear the snow off their car. If you have a four-wheel drive, use your vehicle to take your neighbors to the grocery store to get milk. Everybody gets milk and eggs when it snows in West Virginia, even when eggs cost \$6 a dozen. Finally, don't forget the widows and senior citizens in your neighborhood. Be the hands and feet of Jesus for the least of them. This is Love in Action and Loving Where YOU Live at its best!

In closing, let me remind you of four simple thoughts: **First**, balance intimacy with activity. Duty with devotion. Don't just be a hearer or a reader of the Word, BE A DOER (James 1:21-27). Go deep in the Word and even deeper in your witness. Be a faithful worshiper but don't neglect to witness. Be balanced (LWYL).

Second, believe God. Ask yourself, "Am I believing God for too much or too little? Jesus said, "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22). Even the Apostles prayed, "Lord, increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). Feed, fuel, and fan your faith.

Third, pray. Ask yourself, "Is my problem unanswered prayer or unoffered prayer?" Be people of prayer (James 4:2).

Finally, pray for the salvation of the lost. How much does Jesus value the unsaved? Perhaps we need to take a "fresh" look at the cross and see how Jesus values people (2 Cor. 5:21).

Remember, who you love will determine how you live. If we're going to LOVE WHERE WE LIVE (LWYL), we need TO BE in love with Jesus. Love Him so you can love others too.

LOVE & ETERNITY

Theological Word of the Month

Turning Point. by: David Jeremiah (January-13-2023)
Daily Devotional:

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. - John 6:40

Recommended Reading: Romans 6:21-26

"What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death." - 21

Our modern concept of eternity is mostly negative: "I waited in line for an eternity at the DMV!" "It takes forever for my kids to clean their rooms!" In other words, eternity usually is an experience we hope will end sooner rather than later.

Instead of it being something we hope ends soon, eternity in Scripture is an experience that will never end—and happily so! Eternity, according to the Bible, is consistent with the character of God—who is love (1 John 4:8, 16). In fact, God so loved us that He gave His only Son in order that we "should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). But here is a truth about eternal life that we often fail to realize: It begins now. Jesus said, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

Thank God today for the eternal life you have by knowing Him through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

You made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you. - Augustine

If you would like more information on heaven and eternity, pick up one of Pastor Lemming's "Heaven" books at the Merch Station today.



↓ COMING SOON

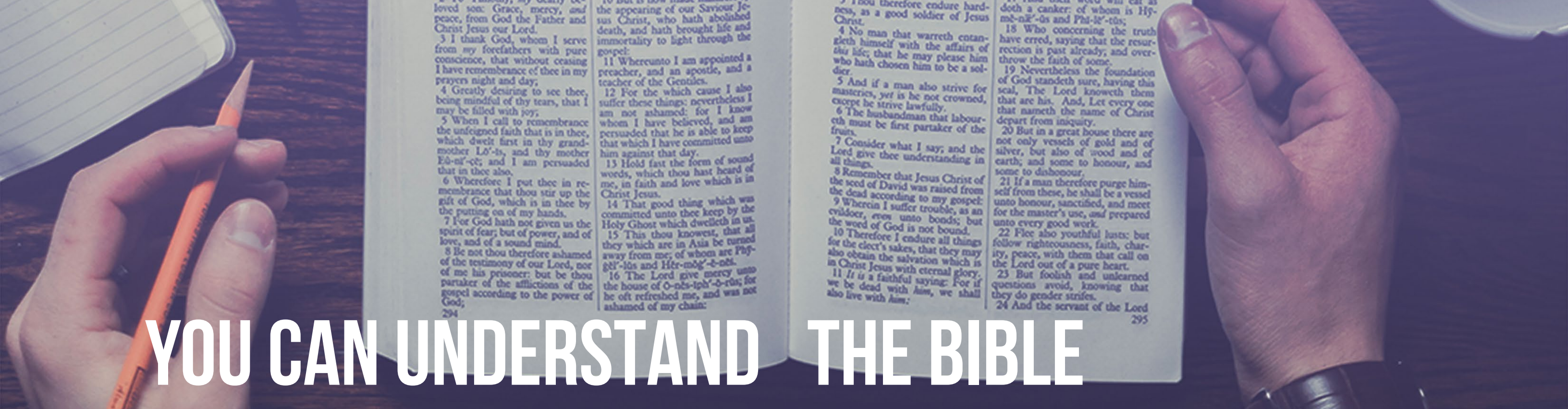


Pre-register for the April-June Spiritual Yearbook

ROOTED

Grow in your faith by staying rooted in the Word of God. Your Spiritual Yearbook can be found at the merch corner in the main lobby.

- 1st 2 John
- 2nd 3 John 1:1-8
- 3rd 3 John 1:9-14
- 4th Psalm 143
- 5th -
- 6th Joshua 1:1-9
- 7th Joshua 1:10-18
- 8th Joshua 2:1-14
- 9th Joshua 2:15-24
- 10th Joshua 3:1-8
- 11th Psalm 46
- 12th -
- 13th Joshua 3:9-17
- 14th Joshua 4:1-9
- 15th Joshua 4:10-18
- 16th Joshua 4:19-24
- 17th Joshua 5:1-9
- 18th Psalm 91
- 19th -
- 20th Joshua 5:10-15
- 21st Joshua 6:1-14
- 22nd Joshua 6:15-27
- 23rd Joshua 7:1-9
- 24th Joshua 7:10-26
- 25th Psalm 51
- 26th -
- 27th Joshua 8:1-17
- 28th Joshua 8:18-29



YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

We are so encouraged that many of you have embarked on the 2023 reading plan, and we are excited that more than 200 of you are using the new Spiritual Yearbook as your guide. We trust you are progressing well through the Scriptures and pray that you fall more in love with God's Word every day. However, we realize that reading the Bible can be one thing, while understanding it can be another thing altogether. For this reason, we are sharing this helpful resource on understanding the Bible, as an encouragement to stay strong in your commitment to growing in God's Word.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26

If you would like to secure a copy of the next Spiritual Year Book, simply scan the preregistration code on page 9.

Some of us fall out of Bible reading because we fail to make time for it. Busyness crowds out the minutes we might otherwise give to sitting and hearing from God. There's always something that didn't get done yesterday or something relatively urgent that's come up today. It's pretty

amazing, isn't it, just how many things in our little worlds seem to trump listening to the one who made them all?

For others, it's not busyness that gets the best of us but a subtle cynicism about reading the Bible. How am I ever going to understand this? It's hard to keep getting up extra early and setting aside precious minutes when you're not convinced you'll be able to make sense of what you see when you might finish and strangely feel further from God, when you're chasing a full heart morning after morning and yet often walk away just scratching your head.

If you've felt that way before, you're not alone. In fact, even the men who wrote the Bible know something of what you feel. The apostle Peter says of the letters Paul wrote, "There are some things in them that are hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16). Think about that: Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote books in the Bible, and yet even he struggled to read Romans or Thessalonians (or whatever particular letter he had in mind). If he could write on behalf of God and have a hard time understanding Scripture, we shouldn't be surprised if we do too.

And I, for one, definitely do. I've battled to get through the census records in Numbers.

I've labored through the kidneys, livers, and "entrails" of the Levitical laws. I've grown weary of the repetitive failures of Israel in 1-2 Kings. I've sometimes struggled to see what Hebrews sees in the Old Testament. Much of the imagery of Revelation is still a mystery to me. And so, I regularly find these clear and accessible words from Paul all the more meaningful and encouraging:

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (2 Timothy 2:7)

Understanding Is Possible

This is an amazing acknowledgment from Paul to Timothy. He says, in essence, "I know some of what I am writing won't make sense to you immediately, and you'll be tempted to think you cannot understand it — but you can. So, don't give up too easily. Don't assume this is above you. Assume that God can make his words clear to you."

Those apart from Christ cannot understand the things of God. They flip through the Bible's majesty and wisdom in vain. "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are

spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). But not you. If you're in Christ, you can see things they can't. You can understand things that they can't. Where they see foolishness and irrelevance, you see unspeakable beauty, a radiant window into reality. Not because you're smarter or more educated or merely a better reader, but because you're not a natural person anymore; you're a supernatural you, with a supernatural mind and heart and eyes.

Or as Paul says elsewhere of natural people, "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart" (Ephesians 4:18). But not you. You're not alienated from God anymore. Through the cross, he's brought you near, and in bringing you near, he's softened your heart and unlocked your mind. The God who flooded all creation with light "has shone in [your] heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). That's who you are when you open the Bible.

And because you're someone new, you can understand more of the Bible than you might think.

In Everything

Not only can you understand more than you think, but the apostle goes even further: “ . . . the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” If God lives in you, nothing in the Bible is above you — not the genealogies of Numbers, or the sacrificial laws of Leviticus, or the prophetic visions of Ezekiel, or the apocalyptic imagery of Revelation. With God, all are within your reach.

Lest we think Paul’s talking only about the verses immediately before this one, he comes back to the same reality in the very next chapter: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). As much of the Bible that has been breathed out by God — all of it! — that much is now profitable for you. Even on the most obscure, most confusing pages, God means to teach you, to exhort you, to correct you, to train you, to equip you — he means to speak to you.

Before any of that can happen, however, we first have to understand what God is saying — which is exactly where God promises to help us: “The Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

Varied Means of Understanding

None of this means we just sit alone with our Bibles until we understand everything. No, God gives the gift of understanding in a hundred different ways. Remember, most Christians in the history of the world didn’t own a Bible (much less carry it with them everywhere in their pockets). They depended on the regular reading and reciting of Scripture in community. From the first church to today, believers have depended on faithful teachers to rehearse, explain, and model the words of God for them.

And God has multiplied pathways to understanding in our day — first and foremost through our local churches, but then through essays, articles, books, study Bibles, online

courses, commentaries, podcasts, and more. So understanding may come in any number of ways. The point here, however, is that you really can understand what’s in this book — everything that’s in this book, Paul says.

Now, to say that we can understand everything in the Bible is not to suggest that we will understand everything immediately and fully. We won’t — and certainly not the first (or second or even tenth) time through. God can give us understanding in every passage without giving us understanding of every part of a passage. He also often chooses to give understanding, not immediately, but over years or even decades. As we keep reading (and living), familiar verses will emerge with new or deeper meaning and relevance. Some questions will be answered slowly. So don’t expect to understand everything now, but expect to understand something now — and then more tomorrow.

Ask God

Up until now, we’ve seen only that we can understand more than we may assume. You should be asking how. What makes this kind of supernatural reading possible? How do the lights come on?

Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

On our own, we can’t understand the Bible. If God leaves us alone with this book, it wouldn’t be worth getting up early, pouring more hours in, and pressing through difficult verses and chapters. We would search and ask and wrestle in vain. But if it’s God who makes things clear, then he can overcome our limitations and blind spots. You can understand the Bible because God will give you understanding. When you read, he’s not just over your shoulder; he’s inside of you — in your eyes, your mind, your heart — showing you what you’d never see on your own.

The one who reveals himself in the Bible wants to make himself clear. He’s not content to have divinely inspired words on the page; he wants them written on our hearts. He wants

to see understanding, and satisfaction, and transformation — and so he won’t leave you alone with your Bible. This may be why Paul ends the letter the way he does: “The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you” (2 Timothy 4:22). We need the present, spiritual help of God in all we do all the time, and especially in understanding his word.

Think Hard

This understanding, however, doesn’t float down from the clouds and land softly on our heads. No, God gives the gift of understanding through the hard work of reading well. This verse demands almost as much as it promises: “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” This won’t come easily, Timothy. Yes, God is the one who gives understanding, but that doesn’t mean you won’t have to work for it.

Isn’t it strange that some of us hear that God sovereignly gives understanding, and we assume that means we need to do less? Satan teaches this kind of calculus all year round (and not just in Bible reading).

No, 2 Timothy 2:7 is far more like God’s words to Joshua before Israel entered the promised land:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. . . . Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:8–9)

“I will be with you” didn’t mean “You won’t have to fight.” Along with his promise of help and protection, God gave Joshua a charge: “Be strong and courageous.” Fight all the harder because you know I’ll fight with you and for you.

So, when you open your Bible, be strong and courageous. God will be with you wherever you read. Don’t be discouraged

or intimidated. Think harder and longer because you know the Lord loves to give you understanding.

“ *... because you’re someone new, you can understand more of the Bible than you might think.*



by Marshall Segal
Marshall Segal (@marshallsegal) is a writer and managing editor at desiringGod.org. He’s the author of Not Yet Married: The Pursuit of Joy in Singleness & Dating. He graduated from Bethlehem College & Seminary. He and his wife, Faye, have three children and live in Minneapolis.

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN ASIA & OCEANIA

Robert & Lisa Gunter, Australia (Deaf)

SECURED C. Family, Cambodia

SECURED L. Family, China

SECURED D. Family, India

SECURED J. Family, India

SECURED D. Family, Israel

SECURED K. Family, Kazakhstan

Josh & Sarah Wager, Micronesia

SECURED G. Family, Middle East

John & Mihyon Humphrey, New Zealand

Phil & Jan Smith, Papua New Guinea

Doug & Becky Sisson, Philippines

Tim & Charlene Miskimen, Thailand



FILIP & AMY
LE ROUX

Introducing the Le Roux family, our newest supported missionaries.

We are Filip, Amy and Zane Le Roux, ministering in Cape Town, South Africa. We both came to know the Lord as our Savior early in our lives. Filip was born and raised in South Africa and Amy was born and raised in the United States.

Amy knew from an early age that she wanted to be a missionary and during a missions conference she surrendered her life to the Lord to go to the mission field. In 2007 she came to South Africa as a single missionary and served in Cape Town and the Garden Route in church planting ministries where she taught Sunday School, did outreaches into townships, taught Bible in public schools, and did personal discipleships with teens and ladies.

Filip was blessed to get involved in new church plants and camp ministry towards the end of his high school years. Over time he was personally discipled and also received practical ministry instruction and training. He was able to attend the local church based Bible school classes called Church Ministry Institute (CMI). While working a secular job, he looked for opportunities to share the Gospel and served the Lord in preaching, teaching, and discipling believers. The Lord began working in Filip's heart about serving in full time ministry. After spending time in prayer Filip surrendered

to God's call in 2014. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in September 2018.

During the weekend that Filip surrendered to God's call, he met Amy. Over the next year the Lord developed a relationship based on our mutual love for Him. In October of 2015 we were married. By God's amazing grace, we were blessed with our precious son, Zane Matthew, born April 29, 2019.

You can read more about the Le Roux Family at f.leroux@dmj.org or at lmbc.org/missions



WENDY
HINZMAN

After several hours of work, my mom finished assembling the puzzle, only to find that it was missing just one piece. That image really reflects my situation as I enter 2023. In 2020, God began putting together this new jigsaw puzzle. The pandemic, my dad's health, and my move to the US were pieces of the puzzle. Following my dad's death in September 2022, pieces began falling into place with training opportunities and a partnership opportunity with Life Impact.

There is just one missing piece in order to complete the puzzle. This afternoon, I sat down and crunched the numbers. In order to make the move to Florida, I need to raise an additional \$1300 a month.

I am so incredibly grateful for each of the faithful ministry partners that God has given me. As I looked back over my e-statements for 2022, I was in awe of God's provision. The additional funds needed are because of the cost of monthly rent for a house, not because God hasn't provided for my personal needs.

I would appreciate your prayers regarding this final piece of finances. Would you pray with me that God would finish the puzzle by April? Would you consider how God might want you to be involved in making The Blessing a reality?

As I enter 2023, I am focusing on this thought from God's Word. We are so blessed to be loved by God without boundaries or conditions. As I read Scripture, I see God loving people with this perfect love. There is no need to fear what people think, what circumstances might arise, or what the future holds. We can trust in the perfect love of God as each day unfolds.

I want to thank you for the love that you have shown me throughout 2022. I have appreciated all your prayers and support as I navigated some difficult times. I also want to thank you for your patience. I am finally beginning to feel a bit more like myself. The exhaustion is slowly giving way to excitement as I look to this next chapter of ministry.

FOCUS: PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

by Mary Ellen Black

A response to “The Importance of Prayer” Bible study, Love God Greatly 2023, w1d5

Read: Romans 15:30 and Colossians 1:9-12; Focus Verse: Colossians 1:9
⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power, so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. Col. 1:9-12

DEVOTED TO PRAYER

Paul’s devotion to prayer teaches us much about praying for others in this one little passage, even in just this one focus verse. Starting with the very first word, we learn that we are to pray with a purpose. “So”, or “For this reason”, as found in the NET, is a word or phrase that indicates the need to look back in order to truly understand why Paul and Timothy haven’t stopped praying for the believers at Colossae. When we look back to verse 8, we find the answer is that they heard about the Colossian believers’ love for others. Specifically, a love given to them by the Holy Spirit. When we share the common bond of love - in the Spirit, whom we have received through faith in Christ, we will be or should be drawn to pray for one another. If we look carefully at verse 9, we will see at least four other lessons worth noting and, I believe, implementing in our own prayer lives.

- Pray with a purpose: “because of your love in the Spirit.” (8)
- Pray with others: “we have not stopped praying for you” (9)
- Pray faithfully: “We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you”. (9)
- Pray specifically and in accordance with God’s will: “We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.”(9)

“I’ll pray for you” can easily become a trite statement, something we say as a Christian nicety but with very little or consistent follow through. However, I believe this passage, specifically verse 9, gives us cause to guard ourselves against the nicety of prayers and implement this example in our everyday prayer life. When we invest in the lives of other believers, as Paul teaches, we will make an impact not only in each other’s lives but in the way we live for God. We will be known to bear fruit and honor God, and we will develop and deepen a relationship with Him. We will find ourselves strengthened with His power, not lacking in endurance or patience, and filled with joy. Oh, the blessing and privilege of praying for each other. May He find us faithful, and may we find ourselves different because of it.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Who are you praying for?
- Do you pray with purpose and faithfulness?
- Do you pray specifically and in accordance with God’s will?

How can we pray for you? Check out the next page for ways to share your request with us, or to join us in praying for the needs of others.



DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

You can be a difference maker in a number of areas around the church. Visit lmbc.org/serve to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PRAYING FOR OTHERS

We have many options for those who want to participate. You’ll find them below but please feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

- Subscribe to our email prayer chain at <https://lmbc.org/prayer> (We currently have 174 subscribers. Will you help us raise the number and the prayers by registering this month.)
- Join the LMBC Church Family Facebook Group where you will find prayer requests left by members of the group as well as encouraging words from Pastor Lemming and others: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/756024322103621/>
- Visit <https://lmbc.org/missions> for the latest prayer requests and praises from our missionaries
- Visit the ABWE prayer plan where you can join in praying for both the harvest and the laborers mentioned in Matthew 9:38: <https://www.abwe.org/welcome-938-prayer-plan>

EBENEZER IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY

Check here monthly or online for the times and events and upcoming opportunities to volunteer or participate and help us make a difference.

EBENEZER CALENDAR

all at Ebenezer unless otherwise stated

FEB. 14

First Responders Meals
11 am - 2 pm & 7 - 9 pm

Encouragement & Prayer
11 am - 2 pm



FEB. 23

Bible Club
4 - 5:15 pm



Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org
or our App



By mail



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST
FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Eva JoAnne Black, Phyllis Carson's mother
- Dreama Carson, Herb Carson's sister-in-law
- Jack Howard, Bernice Bird's brother
- Joyce Lawrence, Renee Szekely's mother
- Fred Locey, Linda Ward's father
- Richard McDonie, Dreama VanHoose's brother
- Don Nash, Mary Alice Yingling's brother
- Samantha Sperry, Patti McMullen's and Sandee Burns' niece

New Members/Baptisms

- Harley Adkins (baptism)
- Landon Childers (baptism)
- Caroline Dornbos (baptism)
- Ashley Nelson (baptism)

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Phil Newberry (3rd)
- April McClay (8th)
- Audrey McClay (14th)
- Myra Yates (23rd)

LOOKING FOR A STARTING POINT?

How to join our community of faith

Are you looking for a church home?
Would you prayerfully consider whether God
may be leading you to our family of believers?
If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

1st
Baptism



Trust in Christ and
follow Him in believer's
baptism.

2nd
Register
(pick 1)



In Service: scan the QR
code on the pew in front
of you and let us know
you would like to join.
Online: lmbc.org/register
Call: 304-736-7676

3rd
Discover



Check out the
information in the
visitor packet you
received when you
registered with us or
visit lmbc.org/what-we-believe to learn
about our core beliefs
and more.

4th
Experience



Come to the next
Starting Point on
Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023
at 5 pm in the HIS Way
Cafe (SMB), where you'll
meet with our Pastors to
begin your membership
experience.
Call: 304-736-7676
Pre-register: lmbc.org/starting-point

WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

ADULTS (COED)

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Through the Bible (S104) Jared Blankenship
Wall Builders (S100) Steve Bragg
Cornerstone (S102) Tim Koletka
Maranatha (Renaissance Room) Chuck Daniel

TUESDAYS @ 1 pm

Fearless (S100) Estep/Wyrick
@ 6 pm
Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) Tim Yates

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Encouraging Friends Ministry (112) Kate McMullen
@ 6:30 pm
At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicky Tardy
Broken Together (Thompson Home) Dan & Terri Thompson
It's Always Something (S100) Chuck Daniel

@ 6:45 pm

Abundant Life (L108) Gary McMullen
@ 7 pm

West Ridge Bible Study (WC Auditorium) Tim Yates
Selah (L114) Nathan McClay
Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming
Friends of God 2.0 (FOG House) Sargent/Ball
Just Prayer (L104) Donna Nash
Rooted in Christ (F207) Jonah & MaKayla Howerton
Whosoever (L112) Sargent/Fry

FRIDAYS @ 5:30 pm

Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) Thurman Lowder

WOMEN

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Journey with Him (L110) Hale/Tritz

MONDAYS @ 6 pm

Daughters of the King (S100) Rebekah Shaffer

TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am

Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) Tardy/McMullen
@ 10 am

At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (L107) Leah Adkins
Knowing God's Heart (F205) Hager/Bashore
Starts Feb. 14 *Embrace Grace (L106) *for single pregnant ladies Angela Cantley

THURSDAYS @ 10 am

Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) Mullens/Foreman

MEN

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Westridge Wisdom (S100) Jeremy Shaffer
@ 7 pm

Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) Steve Bragg
Iron Sharpeners (L110) Matheny/Miller

SENIORS

SUNDAYS @ 9 am

Willing Workers (L108) Richard Sexton
Young at Heart (L114) Bill Blankenship

FRIDAYS @ 11 am

Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and
informational publication from



*Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus*

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lmbc.org
Emergency pager:
304-691-0633

SUNDAY WORSHIP
**9 & 10:45 am (watch live
at lmbc.tv)**

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY**
7 pm

CONNECT STAFF:
Senior Editor,
David Lemming
Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

*Read previous editions
of Connect at
lmbc.org/connect.*

JESUS
LOVES ME
THIS
I Know