



June News

James: Faith in Action

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” James 1:1a

Few books in the New Testament are as direct, practical, and convicting as the epistle of James. While some biblical letters focus heavily on doctrine and theology, James speaks to everyday life—our words, attitudes, actions, relationships, and responses to hardship. It is a book that refuses to let faith remain *theoretical*. James challenges believers to live out what they claim to believe. We would do well to spend time this summer looking deeper into the truths of this short but powerful book in Scripture.

On Sunday, June 14th, we will do just that, as we begin a new sermon series called: “James: Faith in Action.” This is a letter that is both deeply pastoral and sharply prophetic. It comforts the weary, confronts hypocrisy, and calls the church to maturity. It gives practical teaching on ways to live out the ethical implications of the Christian faith.

Why Was James Written?

James wrote to Jewish believers scattered outside Jerusalem who were facing trials, persecution, poverty, and spiritual struggles. These Christians needed encouragement, wisdom, and correction.

Rather than offering abstract theology, James addresses real-life issues:

- How should believers respond to suffering?
- What does genuine faith look like?
- How should Christians speak to one another?
- What is the danger of favoritism and pride?
- How should believers handle wealth and possessions?
- What role does prayer play in spiritual endurance?

James consistently emphasizes that authentic faith produces visible fruit. Faith is not merely something we profess—it is something we practice.

In a world where religion is often relegated to private belief or intellectual debate, James remains a jarring and necessary voice. It calls the believer back to the streets, the workplaces, and the homes where faith is daily tested. The book challenges the tendency toward spiritual hypocrisy, demanding that our public profession of faith matches our private conduct.

Join us this summer, as we together explore and grow in our faith in our study of the book of James. May our study of God’s Word deepen our commitment to Jesus inside and outside the walls of our church.

Make Much of Jesus,
Pastor Michael



MEN of HONOR

4 Pillars Of A Forged Man

CONVICTION COURAGE FAITH MISSION



Men,

Thank you for attending the MOH event on May 16. The turnout was outstanding. For the benefit of Journey Church and for the benefit of those who could not attend, let’s take what we learned, build on it and keep moving forward in the power of the Holy Spirit to **Make Much of Jesus**, every day and in every way.





IN YOUR ELEMENT

SUMMER CAMP 2026

June 8-11 | 6:00-8:30 pm

- Ages: Kids who have finished K-5th grade
- FREE family meal every night from 5:15-5:45 pm
- Grab some invitation postcards to give to families you know!
- Please continue to join us in praying for the week: for the volunteers and for kids and families to hear the good news of salvation through Jesus

FAMILY FEST

Thursday, June 11
Open to the entire community!
Invite your friends and neighbors to join you.
All are welcome!

June Events



We are happy to announce that **Keturah Paul** has joined our Journey Church staff as Administrative Specialist. She will start on June 2.



Awana, our weekly Wednesday night children's ministry, wrapped up a wonderful year of ministry in late April with awards and an end of the year celebratory carnival.

The Lord was very much at work in the entire year. We had deep faith discussions, saw lives changed, children grew in their relationships with Him, lots of Bible verses were understood and hidden in hearts, we prayed over and packed almost 100 Christmas Child boxes, learned about Easter and the Resurrection with an Easter celebration and a Biblical Easter Escape Room event, the kids learned about God at work in Kenya at Brook of Hope, we sang songs and played Awana games Kenya style, connected with the Brooke of Hope kids by making a huge greeting card for them, and even enjoyed a visit from Pastor James.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."-Ephesians 3:20

The Lord grew the program to post-Covid record numbers of participants with almost 60 kids and teen helpers regularly participating plus a dozen adult helpers. The kids, teens, and adults are all learning more about Jesus and growing in their faith walks through our time together each week and it's truly a blessing! Praise be to God for the work He's doing in our youth and children. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who poured out Jesus into the kids each week. :)

Awana will be starting up again in early September and we are looking forward to seeing what He has planned for this coming year and we would LOVE to have you join us! We meet Wednesday evenings 6:15-7:45 pm September-April.



Come Join Us for Sunday Morning Worship

Join us beginning June 14th for a new summer sermon series in the book of James. We will look at the Bible's definition of faith in action.



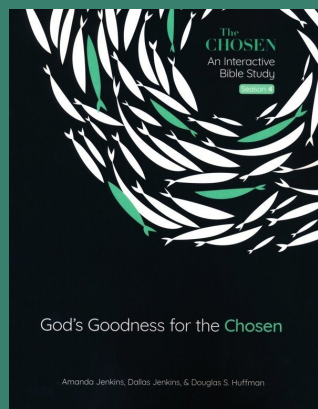
Tuesday Ladies' Community Bible Study | The Chosen Season 4 | June 2 - July 28

The summer women's Bible study will run from June 2 to July 28 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 each Tuesday morning (Note change of start time) We will be using the Season 4 Interactive Bible Study from *The Chosen* entitled "God's Goodness for the Chosen". This study teaches readers how to reframe their hardships and see them as fertile soil for God's goodness to grow in their lives.

Bible Study booklets are available and can be purchased through Amazon for \$10 or wherever you purchase books. Make sure you choose to purchase *The Chosen*, Season 4 Bible study "God's Goodness for the Chosen". If you are having trouble purchasing a book, please contact Lisa Balk for assistance.

Please sign up on the signup sheet if you plan to attend so Lisa can contact you with pertinent information regarding the details of the study. We will begin discussing the Intro and Lesson 1 on June 2, so please prep for that if you are able. Please come regardless if you feel prepared! You'll be glad you did!

You need not be present every week to participate, and you do not have to have completed the studies done previously. Each season and each week's lesson can stand alone. Any questions, text Lisa at 309-738-4422.



Missionary Focus - Ross and Mary Hunter

It was a pleasure to meet and learn from Ross and Mary Hunter about their ministry with the Pioneers sending organization while visiting Journey Church on May 24th. Ross & Mary's primary role is to equip pastors, leaders, and their families of Quichua, Ecuador in the area of Discipleship and Biblical Training. Following God's calling to **"go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,"** the Hunters have served 31 years of living & ministering among different slices of Ecuadorian culture which has provided them with a unique perspective of the deep heart needs of the people.



What is Discipleship – making a disciple? A disciple is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, intentionally learns from Him, and strives to live more like Him. Discipleship is a widely-used word to describe a journey of spiritual growth. This growth happens as a person comes alongside another to witness to them, pray with them, study the Bible with them, and fellowship with them. (Taken from <https://www.navigators.org/resource/basics-of-discipleship/#whatisdiscipleship>) As Ross teaches pastors and church leaders, he comes alongside of these men to build relationships that allow them to understand and apply biblical truths that help each to grow in their personal relationship with Christ and to enhance their ability to teach others.

As of 2018, Ross and Mary have pursued additional personal studies and have begun a new round of field based and modular training for the next phase of their ministry. Mary is working on her graduate studies in Spiritual Formation and Discipleship at Moody Bible Institute and a program on trauma at the Somatic Trauma Institute. Ross continues his PhD research in the area of Indigenous Theological Education at Columbia International University.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for Mary and her family as they grieve the passing of her mom on March 19.
- Final plans and safety as they visit supporting churches in the Midwest.
- The formation of a global educational training network within their training center.
- Their need for financial support: for God to move hearts and to inspire creative strategies to meet these challenges.
- Ross' continued PhD research.
- Mary's continued connections to trauma healing, her current workshop on trauma informed care and continued participation with Pioneers in field-based member care.

