

## CONNECTED

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### THE WEEKLY WORD



First Baptist Church

Salina, Kansas

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### **Dealing with False Accusations**

Have you ever been a victim of false accusation in school, at work or even at church? How did you feel? Some of these accusations can be career threatening and may jeopardize your whole life. Even in the church, some people are victims of character assassination, gossip, and slander. Believe it or not, there are people that take maximum delight in ruining the reputation of others. Have your ever wondered whether God cares about what happens when his servants are maliciously accused? Does he ignore the whole thing?

Moses faced a similar challenge. Despite God using him to deliver the children of Israel from bondage, he also had people who unjustly accused him. In Numbers 16, a group of dissidents led by Korah, Dathan and Abiram incited 250 leaders to falsely accuse Moses of pride and self-exaltation (vs 3). They claimed that there was no way God would only be speaking through Moses. Secondly, they defied the leadership authority of Moses. When Moses invited them before the Lord, Dathan and Abiram refused to come (vs 12). Only Korah met face to face with Moses but further accused Moses of high handedness (vs 12). Moses was so devastated. He fell facedown before the Lord. God was angry too. He wanted to put an end to all this nonsense by completely annihilating the whole nation (vs 21).

But Moses and Aaron pleaded with the Lord to spare the Israelites (vs 22). The story gets to a very scary end. The earth split and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, with all their possessions; even the 250 men who were offering sacrifices were consumed by fire. This brought a lot of fear among the people.

This story illustrates that God stands with and fights for his children. When you are unjustly accused, **God will never leave you defenseless**. In this world of sin, you don't have to look for trouble, trouble knows where to find you. Satan can use those close to you to attack you maliciously. You may be falsely accused. You may be an object of gossip and slander, do not be discouraged, God will fight for you.

On the other hand, there is also a warning to those that may be used to malign others. We should not be weapons that Satan uses to fight his war. We should be careful not to participate in character assassination. Instead of creating walls of contention, we should build bridges of understanding among people of God. We say in Kenya that when a pig invites you to play in the mud, refuse. For the pig enjoys getting dirty.

Pastor Joel

### Reminder!

Pastor Kevin will be on vacation from April 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. **Pastor Joel** will be available for any pastoral guidance needed during this time. Please contact him directly at (785) 404-5833 or joel@fbcsalina.org

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### Everyone Says "Cheese!"

First Baptist Church is made up of individuals and families that are genuinely concerned about each other. As we continue to grow and welcome new families, one of the challenges that we are likely to encounter is the difficulty of putting names and faces together. The leadership has responded to this concern by forming a team to work on the Pictorial Directory. The members of this team are John Thelander, Lauren Struckmeyer, Chris Jones, and Klaira Thelander. They will be shooting candid pictures as well as Studio shots for the directory and other promotional uses. The members of this team welcome any ideas that can ensure success. They will soon be updating the Church Family on their plan to achieve this. Let them know any concerns that you may have about this.

### Bethel Neighborhood Center

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, BNC in Kansas City, KS will celebrate the grand opening of their newly built Wellness Center. As part of our extended American Baptist Family, we congratulate and rejoice with Bethel in this accomplishment. Please sign the card from FBC Salina located at the Connection Center anytime this week or during worship on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>.

# Thursday Morning Bible Study

"As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it". Job 4:8

The seeds that Jacob sowed in his life were those of deception. He first tricked his brother, Esau, and then he fooled his father, Isaac. He sowed seeds of treachery. In the 2nd session, of Max Lucado's video, entitled "God Never Gives Up on You", we will see the kind of harvest that would produce in his life. For Jacob was about to meet his match in deception in the form of an uncle named Laban. Join in this study on Thursday, April 25 at 10am in the church library. Bring your Bible and your friends.

Reminder: First session begins tomorrow, April 18<sup>th</sup>!

### Mark Your Calendars!

Our next **Executive Board** Meeting is April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Our next **Unity Sunday** is scheduled for May 05<sup>th</sup>.

## **Heads Up**

May calendar will be sent with the April 24<sup>th</sup> Weekly Word. Please have all new Bible studies, events, meetings, etc., to Ray in the Church Office no later than **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Thank you!

# Sunday Worship

**APRIL 21st**, 2024

### 9AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE

GO TO FBCSALINA, ORG TO ACCESS THE ONLINE SERVICE,

### 10:30AM INTERACTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

MESSAGE: PASTOR JOEL

"NEVER TOO LATE"

JOHN 11

## **Scholarships**

#### TWO scholarships are due in May 2024

- ABWM Scholarship: Applicants must be active in an American Baptist Church of the Central Region, an approved international student, or an active member of an ABC National Mission. Contact: Barb Karlin. <u>Deadline: May 01<sup>st</sup></u>.
- Dean M. Barragree Scholarship: Applicants must be a senior graduating from a Saline County school or a person with an interest in obtaining a master's degree. Contact: Sherri Barragree at. Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>.

# THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR

#### APRIL 21st

9AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP 10AM FRIENDSHIP TIME 10:30AM INTERACTIVE WORSHIP 10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 6PM PRAISE & GROWTH GROUPS

> APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> 7PM 4H PLAY

APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>
6:30PM EXECUTIVE BOARD MTG.

### APRIL 24TH

9AM PRAYER GROUP 6PM FAMILY NIGHT (DIG IN & GIBBOUS) 7:15PM CHOIR PRACTICE

#### APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>

10AM "GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU" BIBLE STUDY

**APRIL 26TH – 28TH** 



April 14th 9am In-Person: 87 Nursery: 5 10:30am In-Person: 18 Nursery: 3