



On the Same Page

“Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”” (Mark 9:35 NAS95)

A Developing Direction

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

Moment-by-Moment

Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

Twelve

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Twelve is a strange age. Are you a teen? Or not quite? When I was in school, you were in 6th grade, kings of the elementary school. But now, 12 year olds are the little fish in the big pond of Middle School. At Lake Ann, we run a special camp for 6th graders, for 12 year olds, called Jump Start, as though we understand that they need it. Or maybe it's just to protect them from the 8th graders.

Luke makes generous use of the number 12. [Jesus is 12 when he goes to Jerusalem and stays behind to engage with the teachers and “to be about my Father’s business.”](#) He’s old enough and developed enough to function in an adult world. And yet [back-to-back miracles in Luke 8](#) tragically reveal a woman who receives no help after 12 years of treatment from doctors, and a girl who is dying, and is not likely to make it past twelve. On the one hand it seems like a lot; but on the other, not nearly enough.

And so Jesus assembles a key group of disciples, and they are known as [“the Twelve.”](#) Who are these guys? The best and the brightest? The few and the proud? Well, not exactly. Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” [Peter answers, “The Christ of God.”](#) Way to go Peter. But you know that Peter and the others often follow their best performances with failures. And so [Peter soon categorizes Jesus](#) alongside Moses and Elijah, great men to be sure, but not by any means “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to Him.” And the others start a nice little discussion about [which one of them would be the greatest.](#) It would have been more helpful if they could have ferreted out the weakest (Judas Iscariot) just a little bit sooner.

Maybe that’s why it worked out (or, Jesus worked it out) that after the feeding of the 5000, the disciples - those disciples who had earlier complained bitterly to Jesus that there was no way all these people could be fed, and that the resources were simply not available - yes, those twelve disciples were instructed by Jesus to go around and collect all the leftovers. How many baskets filled with extra food? Twelve.

The point of this, then, is that as we follow the Twelve into mission, we must realize that the success of mission did not, and does not depend on us. Our words many times are unclear, and our conduct inconsistent. But God’s mission depends primarily, not on the Twelve - those who have just about arrived, but not really - nor on saints who are at the same time sinners. God’s mission depends primarily on ... God.

from John Bunyan, Prayer. The head of the Roman Catholic church recently suggested we should re-word the 6th request of the Lord's Prayer, "Lead me not into temptation." Fortunately, it is not his prayer to re-word. It comes to us from the Lord. But Bunyan helps us think about what this request involves. We are more at risk of temptation than we know.

- 1. Believe that if you seek to walk in a way pleasing to God, then you will meet with many temptations from the evil one.**
 - 2. The first day that you enter into Christ's congregation, watch out for the temptations.**
 - 3. When the temptations come, beg God to carry you through them.**
 - 4. Be suspicious of your own heart, that it does not deceive you into thinking that you are more holy than you are.**
 - 5. Beware of the flatteries of false brethren.**
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News and Notes

Prayer Time: Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

Ladies Bible Study meet on Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel.

Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade.

Circle of Grace ladies fellowship next meets on Tuesday evening, February 6.

We would like to invite interested people to join **Milford Baptist's Facebook prayer page** (search 'Milford Prayer') - a user-by-permission forum to post/read church family prayer requests.

Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Last Sunday, January 14 we introduced our church theme for 2018, linking to our next section in Luke's Gospel on mission - **Courage and Clarity**. We followed Francis Schaeffer's suggestion on **The Mark of the Christian**, and reflected on John 13: 31-35. [Listen to the message here.](#)



This Sunday, January 21, we finally return to Luke's Gospel, and think about **the disciples and mission**. What we will discover throughout Luke 9 is that the Twelve, like us, are deeply flawed, and the mission of God depends chiefly on ... God.

Sunday School for adults and children each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Adults are studying themes related to the upcoming morning message. Children are studying stories from the life of Daniel.

[Milford Baptist Website](#)

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