

The Springs



Rev. Don Tabberer



After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers.

Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest." (Luke 10:1-2, CEB)

As faithful people, we are called to reach out to help others find their way to Jesus. As a congregation, we are constantly seeking to know what God expects from us and how we might fulfill our call. This week, I want to share a story with you, taken from a book called, ***"Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People,"*** written by Junius B. Dotson. Rev. Dotson was a featured speaker at our Annual Conference this year, and his book is being used by churches all over Oklahoma as a study in faithful discipleship. The following summary concerns an experiment from 2016 that attempted to discover how four minutes of staring into the eyes of another human being, different from yourself might bring two people closer.

Two people are led into a room; their eyes are closed. They are seated in front of each other within arm's length: one, a refugee fleeing a war-torn country; one, a European in a country struggling to respond to the refugee crisis. They open their eyes have been instructed not to speak for four minutes, looking directly at the other person for the duration. Some break the rules immediately, saying, "I like your mustache." "Are you new to Berlin?" "How old are you?" The exercise appears awkward at first for some, but for others it immediately creates smiles. Some cannot handle the intensity and look away. Some begin to cry. At the end of the exercise, all smile, some stand and embrace, some hold hands. Some make plans to visit a local zoo together. Two children upon finishing the experiment begin to play a game of tag.

Looking into another's eyes drives us to a surprisingly deep connection. In just four minutes – without words – friendships begin to form. How is that possible? What is it about a simple human encounter such as this? Why does this experiment elicit such a powerful response – with just the simple act of *seeing* another and *being seen* by another?

I believe Jesus understood this principle as he sent the disciples out with instructions for vulnerability and consistency – to be fully present in the moment, perhaps even beginning to see people the way Jesus saw people.

Something happens when we sit with one another without language, looking into each other's eyes without prejudice. What we see and experience is the purity of another human being – the *imago Dei* (image of God). We might say that in the mystery of such an encounter healing can occur. We might even say the kingdom of God draws near or is revealed.

How might we rethink our approach to building relationships and engaging others in light of Jesus' instructions and by the example of vulnerability seen in this experiment.

I believe that there is a profound principle at work in this story. It is a concept that should be true when we engage persons of different nationalities, cultures, and religious backgrounds. It should play out when we engage persons of different political points of view. It should play out when we engage with people who disagree with us on any number of social, political, and religious issues. This principle could change our method of discourse across all our lives and quiet the angry rhetoric and allow us all to think about what is right for everyone, not simply what is right for "me" and "my people."

Seeking holy conversation, not rancor,
Pastor Don

OneBook.

THE EPIC OF EDEN

Does your knowledge of the Old Testament feel like a grab bag of people, books, events and ideas? How many times have you resolved to really understand the OT? To finally make sense of it?

In the Epic of Eden Bible Study, Dr. Sandra Richter clearly and powerfully communicates a history of God's redeeming grace, weaving together a story that runs from the Eden of the Garden to

the garden of the New Jerusalem. Through text and video teaching, Dr. Richter uses this 12-week study to bring a new dimension to the history of the ancient Near East, orienting any study group in time, geography, culture, redemption, and relevance to today - all without diminishing her reader's faith or "dumbing down" the scripture. Legendary Bible stories take on new life as Dr. Richter clearly articulates their part of a larger pattern, revealing an even deeper significance for the tales individually.

In this study you will:

- Gain a rich understanding of the context in which the Old Testament was written;
- "Organize your closet," making sense of all the Old Testament parts, pieces, and stories you've accumulated over time;

Discover how the big story of Scripture has serious implications for our present. Just because it happened in the past doesn't mean it stays there!

Beginning **Monday, September 10, 2018**, and running for the next 12 weeks, SSUMC will offer the Old Testament Bible Study, ***"The Epic of Eden."*** Sessions **begin at 6:30 PM each Monday**. Thanks to our friends at Asbury UMC, we are able to get the textbooks for this study at the discounted rate of **\$18.00 each**.

You are invited to participate in this exciting Bible Study. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office by August 20, so we can get the books before sessions begin. You may also REGISTER ONLINE at:

www.sandspringsumc.org

***"The Epic of Eden"* Bible Study Group**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BOOKS NEEDED: _____

What's Going On?



Hey Kids-

Great to see everyone yesterday. Our Bible story was Jesus out in the desert and how He was tempted by Satan. Jesus used God's word to stop Satan and send him away!

We know that God is always faithful and will help us when we are tempted. Be sure and be here next Sunday, August 26th for "Blessing of your Backpack" by Pastor Don. Have a wonderful week! Miss Debbie and Miss Marty

Head Ushers

8:45am-Amanda Honeycutt
11:00am-Eddie David

Children's Church

8:45am-Kingdom Kids
11:00am-Jami Warkentin
8/26-Becky Barnes
9/2-Communion
9/9-Debbie Schmidt
9/16-Amanda Honeycutt
9/23-Marty David
9/30-Amy Miller

Sunday Counters

8/26-Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin
9/2-Janie Moore & Kent Warkentin
9/9-Diana Pond & Jack Vest
9/16-Betty or Howard Smith & Karen Wilder
9/23-Sondra Allen & Dick Ford
9/30-Bob Barnes & Jami Warkentin

Youth Dinners, Served 6:30, Wednesdays

8/22-Priscilla Circle
8/29-Noah/Searchers Classes

Welcome Center

January & May & September-CIA/Pathfinders
February & June & October-Harmony
March & July & November-Discovery
April & August & December-TNT

Fourth Monday Community Dinner

5:30-8/27-Fellowship Hall
5:30-9/24-Fellowship Hall
5:30-10/22-Fellowship Hall
5:30-11/26-Fellowship Hall
5:30-12/24-Fellowship Hall

All Church Mission Strategy Team (MST) Event

8/24 at 5:00pm-The Well
9/28 at 5:00pm-The Well
10/19 at 5:00pm-The Well
11/16 at 5:00pm-The well
12/28 at 5:00pm-The Well

Prayer List

Jim & Vi McAllister, Martha Scudder, Charlene Reeves, June Brown, Mary Lea Forsythe, Kevin Harris, BW Proft, Sue Shaw, Michael Bostwick, Greta Green, Bob & Cathy Hula, Bill & Clare Caldwell, John & Sylvia Johnson, Barbara McClintock, Montie Box, Owen Johnston, Ruth Weaver, Darin Grayson, Pauline Hanigar, Betty & Linda Lund, Frank Slane, Last Week's Prayer Chains, Unspoken Requests

If someone needs to be added to the prayer list or someone was taken off too soon, please contact Tracey in the front office to update prayer list.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SAND SPRINGS UMC
***-Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome**

Monday, August 20
10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-The Well

Tuesday, August 21
11:30am-Lunch to 9th Grade Center Staff
7:00pm-Praise Team Practice

Wednesday, August 22
7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-Y4Y
6:30pm-Youth-The Well
7:00pm-Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, August 23
6:30pm-Faith Circle-Parlor
*7:00pm-Collins Karate-The Well

Friday, August 24
5:00pm-MST Event-The Well

Mission Strategy Team
Saturday, August 25
No Activities

Sunday, August 26
8:45am-Contemporary Worship
9:45am-Communion Service
10:00am-Sunday School

Monday, August 27
10:00am-Al-Anon-Upstairs
5:30pm-4th Monday Community Dinner-F. Hall
7:00pm-Boy Scouts-The Well

Tuesday, August 28
7:00pm-Priscilla Circle-Home of Kay W.
7:00pm-Praise Team

Wednesday, August 29
7:30am-Men’s Breakfast-Crescent Café
5:45pm-Y4Y
6:30pm-Youth-The Well
7:00pm-Chancel Choir

The Well-SSUMC Family Life Center...Not sponsored by SSUMC but welcome

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