

“Who among you is wise and understanding? *Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.* But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.* And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:13-18)

2017 Yearly Focus and Plan Booklet for the Pleasant Plains Church of Christ.

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Seeking WISDOM From Above



Pleasant Plains Church of Christ
Focus and Plan For 2017



Seeking WISDOM From Above



“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning and focused effort.”

These wise words were written by Paul J. Meyer, and how accurate these words are. The shepherds of this local church desire for this group to be productive in everything that it does. There too much good work to be done in the Kingdom of God for us to spend any time at all spinning our wheels and not accomplishing good for our Great God. This congregation wants to be committed to excellence in everything that we do. We want to use intelligence in our planing. We want to be focused in our effort. With God's help, 2017 can be a extremely productive year of growth for the disciples that make up Pleasant Plains.

Speaking of wisdom...for 2017, our shepherds have decided that we will focus on growing in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Everything that we do as a congregation in 2017 will be done with the goal in mind of seeking the wisdom that is from above, the wisdom that God generously gives to those who ask. **(James 1:5)** The letter that James wrote is a letter that is extremely practical in nature. It is full of wisdom that can help us to live lives that are first of all pleasing to God and also lives that are beneficial for us as we run the race of life. We must recognize that there are many individuals who claim to be wise. They claim to have all of the answers. They claim to be in need of nothing. Yet, these same individuals often turn out to be the most foolish of all because they do not possess true wisdom. Instead, they possess and are driven by a wisdom that always leads to ruin. James writes about these types of people in what will be our

main focus Text for 2017 in **James 3:13-18**. You see, true wisdom show in the way that we live this life. Those who claim wisdom yet are bitterly jealous, full of selfish ambition, and arrogant are foolish in the eyes of God. The wisdom they claim in not from God, but it is from Satan and leads to disorder, failure, and destruction. Opposed to this demonic wisdom is the true and pure wisdom which God gives. The wisdom of God helps us to live lives that are pleasing to Him and overflowing with righteous fruit that will aid us and those around us.

This year, in an effort to develop this type of wisdom in our lives, we will focus on gaining the wisdom that is from above by focusing on wisdom in these ways:

Seeking Wisdom from God's Word: the principle problem that many have is that they seek wisdom in all the wrong places. We want to give a exceptionally strong emphasis to the necessity of God's Word in our pursuit of wisdom.

Learning Wisdom from Numerous Godly Examples Contained within Scripture: Our Daily Bible Reading will take us through the Old Testament books of **Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, & Song of Solomon**. (see pages 7,8 for more info on our Daily Bible Reading) These and others Biblical writings will help us to grow in wisdom as we see how godly individuals prevailed in this life many years ago.

Applying Wisdom in All Areas of Life: We must remember that God wants us to be wise in this life! He wants us to reach out to Him and desire His wisdom in all aspects of life. We want to see how we can be act wisely in the church, in the home, and out in the world.

It is our hope and prayer that 2017 will build greatly upon our successes of 2016. A church that is committed to excellence, proper planning, and focused effort is a church that will grow and succeed in our duty of serving God and growing His Kingdom. May God we with us in 2017 as we seek His wisdom and grow in our faith and obedience to Him and His Will.

Outside Opportunities to Grow in 2017

We recognize the great good that happens when we assemble for our regularly scheduled worship services. When we come together as a church on the Lord's Day, we stir one another up to good works and faithful service unto our Great God. (Hebrews 10:24,25) However, we seek for even more than that. We seek to find those opportunities outside our worship services where we can spend additional time growing in our faith in Jesus Christ and service to our God. Listed below are our outside opportunities to grow together as disciples and servants of our Lord.

Outside studies' time & location are subject to change

Mens' Study: In 2017, the mens' class will tackle two books. The first will be Doy Moyer's book on Apologetics. "Mind Your Faith: Essays On Apologetics" will be studied January-June. Beginning in July, the men will read through Kyle Idleman's "Not a Fan." This book will push our men from being just a fan of Jesus to being fully dedicated disciples who will do the difficult things for our Lord in this life. **The mens' study is regularly scheduled for the first Saturday morning of every month at 7:30am at Panera Bread on Vann Drive.**

Ladies' Study: The Ladies' study will be regularly scheduled for the first Tuesday morning of every month at 10:00am at the church house. Mark Hinds' "The Big Picture of the Bible" will be the material of study for the ladies of the congregation in 2017. This comprehensive book studies through the entirety of the Bible. From the Bible novice to the well studied veteran disciple, this book will serve well in sharpening the reader's knowledge of God's Word.

Young Peoples' Study: For 2017, our young people will engage in a study of a book entitled "Do Hard Things." This book motivates young disciples to take their faith more seriously and push back against the standard of mediocrity that many have placed upon the young people within the Lord's churches. **This study will regularly meet on the fourth Sunday night of each month at the Angel's home after our evening worship service.**

2017 Calendar of Special Lessons & Events

January 1 AM Service: *The Need For Wisdom*

January 29 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service

February 5 AM Service: *The Source of Wisdom*

March 5 AM Service: *Wisdom of the World vs Wisdom From Above*

March 26-29: Special Study with James Brown

April 2 AM Service: *The Foolishness of the Cross*

April 30 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service

May 7 AM Service: *Hindrances to Our Pursuit of Wisdom*

June 4 AM Service: *Wisely Dealing With Sin*

June 12-16 Evenings: Vacation Bible School & Guest Speakers

July 2 AM Service: *God's Wisdom & Parenting*

July 30 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service

August 6 AM Service: *Wisely Choosing a Mate*

September 3 AM Service: *Approaching This World With Wisdom*

October 1 AM Service: *Wisely Evangelizing*

October 29 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service

November 5 AM Service: *Wisely Using Our Words*

December 3 AM Service: *The Blessings of Wisdom in My Life*

***Dates/Topics are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, but please consider these events when planning your calendar for 2017 so that we can all be present to support the work and efforts of our congregation.**

2017 Bible Class Program

While the first responsibly to teach our children is in our individual homes (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4), we as a church want to assist in the maturing of all of our congregation by dedicating time towards in-depth study of the Bible. Our 4 youngest classes will continue studies in the Old Testament with some other materials supplemented, while our adult classes will study through a variety of topics spanning the entirety of Scripture. The following is our detailed plan for congregational growth through our Bible Classes.

Nursery

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Bible Songs & Teaching.
Courtney Steinly & Jill Williams

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Bible Songs & Teaching.
Denise Cagle

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Bible Songs & Teaching.
Amy Gateley

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: Bible Songs & Teaching.
Courtney Steinly & Melody Brown

Pre-School

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Discovering God's Way: Genesis-Judges
Marty Barker & Davida Barker

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Discovering God's Way: Ruth-Nehemiah
Spring McDonald & Katie Angel

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Discovering God's Way: Christ-Part 1
Tracey Weidner

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: Discovering God's Way: Christ-Part 2
Christy Bennett

Kindergarten-3rd Grade

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Building Your Life For God: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai, & Malachi
Kelly Sheffield & Melanie Siedenstrang

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Lighting The Way: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
Christy Bennett & Sandy Lewis

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Life of Jesus Christ: Stop, Look, & Listen
Denise Steinly

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: The Life of Jesus Christ: The Cross & The Empty Tomb
Amy Gailey & Melessa Sain

4th Grade-6th Grade

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Building Your Life For God: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai, & Malachi
Rhonda Cisco

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Lighting The Way: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
Allison Lewis & Tabitha Lewis

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Stop, Look, & Listen: Life of Jesus Christ
Amanda Cisco & Dawn Nichols

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: The Life of Jesus Christ: The Cross & The Empty Tomb
Luanne Holt & Denise Cagle

7th & 8th Grade

First Quarter January 1-March 29: United Kingdom & Making The Case For Jesus
Marty Gailey & Billy Nichols

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Divided Kingdom & Taking The Challenge To Be Like Jesus
David Barker & Alan Siedenstrang

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Gender split classes focusing on gender specific topics.
Chuck Newton/Nick Angel & Janet Newton/Katie Angel

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 31: Kings of Israel & My Roles in Life
Michael Steinly & Sammy Barker

High School

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Desiring God's Own Heart & Making The Case For Christ
Jeff Cisco & Austin Lewis

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Divided Kingdom & Taking The Challenge To Be Like Jesus
Alan Brown & Danny Sheffield

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: Gender split classes focusing on gender specific topics.
Chuck Newton/Nick Angel & Janet Newton/Katie Angel

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: Kings of Israel & My Roles in Life
Michael Steinly & Sammy Barker

Alternative Adult (Meets in Nick's Office)

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Proverbs
Duane Steinly

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Minor Prophets
Austin Lewis

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: The Holy Spirit
Ryan McDonald

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: Romans
Duane Steinly

Auditorium Adult

First Quarter January 1-March 29: Co-Parenting With God
Chuck Newton

Second Quarter April 2-June 28: Create In Me A Clean Heart & Ecclesiastes
Nick Angel

Third Quarter July 2-September 27: The Providence of God
Jason Bennett

Fourth Quarter October 1-December 31: Then Comes The End
Alan Siedenstrang

2017 Daily Bible Reading Program

Just as the car engine cannot run without gas, so can't the Christian grow and thrive as he or she ought to without a daily dose of the Word of God. This year's daily Bible reading will supplement our 2017 focus on seeking wisdom from above. We will spend the year reading through the the wisdom and poetry literature in the Old Testament. There are so many lessons and so much knowledge that can be gained from these writings, so it is our hope that every member will be dedicated to reading through just around 5 chapters a week in 2017. May God be with us as we strive to grow in knowledge and wisdom by the dedicated reading of His word.

Jan. 1-7: Psa 1__ Job 1__ Psa 2__ Job 2__ Psa 3__
 Jan. 8-14: Psa 4__ Job 3__ Psa 5__ Job 4__ Psa 6__
 Jan. 15-21: Psa 7__ Job 5__ Psa 8__ Job 6__ Psa 9__
 Jan. 22-28: Psa 10__ Job 7__ Psa 11__ Job 8__ Psa 12__
 Jan. 29-Feb. 4: Psa 13__ Job 9__ Psa 14__ Job 10__ Psa 15__
 Feb. 5-11: Psa 16__ Job 11__ Psa 17__ Job 12__ Psa 18__
 Feb. 12-18: Psa 19__ Job 13__ Psa 20__ Job 14__ Psa 21__
 Feb. 19-25: Psa 22__ Job 15__ Psa 23__ Job 16__ Psa 24__
 Feb. 26-Mar. 4: Psa 25__ Job 17__ Psa 26__ Job 18__ Psa 27__
 Mar. 5-11: Psa 28__ Job 19__ Psa 29__ Job 20__ Psa 30__
 Mar. 12-18: Psa 31__ Job 21__ Psa 32__ Job 22__ Psa 33__
 Mar. 19-25: Psa 34__ Job 23__ Psa 35__ Job 24__ Psa 36__
 Mar. 26-Apr. 1: Psa 37__ Job 25__ Psa 38__ Job 26__ Psa 39__
 Apr. 2-8: Psa 40__ Job 27__ Psa 41__ Job 28__ Psa 42__
 Apr. 9-15: Psa 43__ Job 29__ Psa 44__ Job 30__ Psa 45__
 Apr. 16-22: Psa 46__ Job 31__ Psa 47__ Job 32__ Psa 48__
 Apr. 23-29: Psa 49__ Job 33__ Psa 50__ Job 34__ Psa 51__
 Apr. 30-May 6: Psa 52__ Job 35__ Psa 53__ Job 36__ Psa 54__
 May 7-13: Psa 55__ Job 37__ Psa 56__ Job 38__ Psa 57__
 May 14-20: Psa 58__ Job 39__ Psa 59__ Job 40__ Psa 60__
 May 21-27: Psa 61__ Job 41__ Psa 62__ Job 42__ Psa 63__

May 28-June 3: Psa 64__ Prov 1__ Psa 65__ Prov 2__ Psa 66__
 June 4-10: Psa 67__ Prov 3__ Psa 68__ Prov 4__ Psa 69__
 June 11-17: Psa 70__ Prov 5__ Psa 71__ Prov 6__ Psa 72__
 June 18-24: Psa 73__ Prov 7__ Psa 74__ Prov 8__ Psa 75__
 June 25-July 1: Psa 76__ Prov 9__ Psa 77__ Prov 10__ Psa 78__
 July 2-8: Psa 79__ Prov 11__ Psa 80__ Prov 12__ Psa 81__
 July 9-15: Psa 82__ Prov 13__ Psa 83__ Prov 14__ Psa 84__
 July 16-22: Psa 85__ Prov 15__ Psa 86__ Prov 16__ Psa 87__
 July 23-29: Psa 88__ Prov 17__ Psa 89__ Prov 18__ Psa 90__
 July 30-Aug. 5: Psa 91__ Prov 19__ Psa 92__ Prov 20__ Psa 93__
 Aug. 6-12: Psa 94__ Prov 21__ Psa 95__ Prov 22__ Psa 96__
 Aug. 12-19: Psa 97__ Prov 23__ Psa 98__ Prov 24__ Psa 99__
 Aug. 20-26: Psa 100__ Prov 25__ Psa 101__ Prov 26__ Psa 102__
 Aug. 27-Sept. 2: Psa 103__ Prov 27__ Psa 104__ P rov 28__ Psa 105__
 Sept. 3-9: Psa 106__ Prov 29__ Psa 107__ Prov 30__ Psa 108__
 Sept. 10-16: Psa 109__ Prov 31__ Psa 110__ Eccl 1__ Psa 111__
 Sept. 17-23: Psa 112__ Eccl 2__ Psa 113__ Eccl 3__ Psa 114__
 Sept. 24-30: Psa 115__ Eccl 4__ Psa 116__ Eccl 5__ Psa 117__
 Oct. 1-7: Psa 118__ Eccl 6__ Psa 119:1-8__ Eccl 7__ Psa 119:9-16__
 Oct. 8-14: Psa 119:17-24__ Eccl 8__ Psa 119:25-32__ Eccl 9__ Psa 119:33-40__
 Oct. 15-21: Psa 119:41-48__ Eccl 10__ Psa 119:49-56__ Eccl 11__ Psa 119:57-64__
 Oct. 22-28: Psa 119:65-72__ Eccl 12__ Psa 119:73-80__ SoS 1__ Psa 119:81-88__
 Oct. 29-Nov. 4: Psa 119:89-96__ SoS 2__ Psa 119:97-104__ SoS 3__ Psa 119:105-112__
 Nov. 5-11: Psa 119:113-120__ SoS 4__ Psa 119:121-128__ SoS 5__ Psa 119:129-136__
 Nov. 12-18: Psa 119:137-144__ SoS 6__ Psa 119:145-152__ SoS 7__ Psa 119:153-160__
 Nov. 19-25: Psa 119:161-168__ SoS 8__ Psa 119:169-176__ Psa 120__ Psa 121__
 Nov. 26-Dec. 2: Psa 122,123__ Psa 124__ Psa 125,126__ Psa 127__ Psa 128__
 Dec. 3-9: Psa 129__ Psa 130,131__ Psa 132__ Psa 133,134__ Psa 135__
 Dec. 10-16: Psa 136__ Psa 137__ Psa 138__ Psa 139__ Psa 140__
 Dec. 17-23: Psa 141__ Psa 142__ Psa 143__ Psa 144__ Psa 145__
 Dec. 24-30: Psa 146__ Psa 147__ Psa 148__ Psa 149__ Psa 150__

2017 Service Groups Program

The implementation of this program is a natural outgrowth of our congregations efforts during 2016. Through the consideration of our studies and much prayer, our shepherds have decided that service groups would serve our congregation well as a means of accomplishing the many different areas of need that are found within a congregation of this size.

Far too often, needs are not met or even realized because there is no certainty as to what the needs are or who is responsible for helping such needs. This program will help our group to be more organized in meeting the needs that are present within our congregation.

It is our shepherds desire that the groups will meet at the beginning of their months of duty so that the needs and responsibilities of the month will be clearly identified. Each group will have 4 months throughout the year in which they will be responsible for the different tasks that will be listed below. Each group will have a deacon who will be coordinating the efforts of each group.

The tasks and responsibilities of each group will include, but are not limited to:

- Writing/sending thank you cards to our guests
- Encouraging members with poor attendance
- Encouraging members who are struggling and discouraged
- Helping with distribution of congregational materials
- Visiting with the sick
- Visiting with our shut-ins
- Taking meals and visiting with those who are in need (death in family, new baby, etc)
- Coordinate bible studies with perspective converts

All members are greatly encouraged to be strong participants in the groups to which they've been assigned for this year. Let us all be prayerful and actively working to serve this church and those with whom we have opportunity in 2017!

Group #1 Coordinating Deacon: Shane Cisco

Months: January, April, July, October

Nick & Katie Angel

Dauida Barker

Wally & Denise Cagle

Marty & Amy Gailey

Melissa Koskinas

Roy & Helen Lovell

Alan & Katie Richardson

Anita Wagster

David & Marty Barke

Marvin & Becky Berry

Shane & Amanda Cisco

Koty & Jackie King

Michael & Sandy Lewis

Tim & Nancy Phillips

Alan & Melanie Siedenstrang

Les & Betty Winebrenner

Group #2 Coordinating Deacon: Brent Holt

Months: February, May, August, November

Juanita Atherton

Robbie Bingham

Charlotte Dill

Brent & Luanne Holt

Ryan & Spring McDonald

Kathy Raines

Danny & Kelly Sheffield

Jim & Barbara Wilkinson

Sammy & Nancy Barker

David & Sandra Cisco

Jonathan & Amy Gateley

Austin & Allison Lewis

Chuck & Janet Newton

Blake & Melessa Sain

Michael & Courtney Steinly

Group #3 Coordinating Deacon: Bruce Weidner

Months: March, June, September, December

Trey & Heather Awtry

Alan & Melody Brown

Ann Duncan

Tracy Keithline

Mark & Shanda Lewis

Clemmie Nichols

Thomas & Faye Spence

Richard & Becky Waddell

Jill Williams

Jason & Christy Bennett

Jeff & Rhonda Cisco

Norma Griggs

Aaron & Tabitha Lewis

Billy & Dawn Nichols

Thomas & Betty Shelton

Duane & Denise Steinly

Bruce & Tracy Weidner

Psalm 19

“Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.” Psalm 19:11

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. More to be desired are they than gold, ye, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honey comb.

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. More to be desired are they than gold, ye, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honey comb.

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, ye, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honey comb.

439 in Hymns For Worship

In a year where our focus is to seek wisdom, we must be certain that we are seeking wisdom from the proper source. True wisdom comes from above and is a result of the all-knowing mind of the God of heaven. God teaches us what is right and wise through the law that is contained in His inspired word, the Bible. Each time we sing this song, may we be reminded that it is the law of God and His law alone that can make us wise to live well and be godly in the life we live on this earth. May God help us to seek and find the wisdom that is from above in 2017!