



Practical Ministry at the Chapel

Summer Preaching Series
Chapel Elders

Russ Kennedy

Series Introduction

• Purpose

- The aim of this series will be to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel.

• Objectives

- To ground the ministry in the Word of God
- To explain how the ministries we do are derived from the Word
- To show how we work out doing ministry by wisdom
- To give each ministry an opportunity to lay out its mission, vision, objectives and goals.

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Series Program		
Date	Title	Speaker
June 4	The Public Ministry of the Word	Russ Kennedy
June 11	The Personal Ministry of the Word	Greg Cook
June 18	Spiritual Development and Education	Chad Bresson
June 25	Evangelism: To the Neighborhoods	Dan Turner
July 2	Missions: To the Nations	Dan Turner
July 9	<i>Annual Church Picnic</i>	
July 16	Ministry to Youth	Devon Berry
July 23	Spiritual Formation and Education	Dale Evans
July 30	Finances: Stewardship, Faithfulness, Integrity	Russ Kennedy
August 6	Flocks: Shepherds and Sheep	Russ Kennedy

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The Chapel Pulpit

Colossians 1:21-2:7

Russ Kennedy

Scriptural Foundation

- Introduction
- Deuteronomy 4:1-14
 - Read (vs. 1-4)
 - Respond (vs. 5-8)
 - Rehearse (vs. 9-14)
- Deuteronomy 6:1-25
 - Continually and Comprehensively (esp. vs. 6,7)
- Psalm 78
 - Commitment (vs. 7,8)
- Titus 2:1-9
 - Community (vs. 2,3,4,6)

Scriptural Foundation

Introduction

As we read the Biblical Narrative, the characters for the most part enter the action as “adults.” They think, act, make decisions and are accountable as independent agents. We are told very little about the details of the process in which they are taught. We know very little about language acquisition, skills development, trade instruction or moral patterning.

When we arrive at the book of Deuteronomy, which is essentially a collection of sermons delivered by Moses to the Israelites as they ready themselves to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land, we are given a glimpse into how learning took place and is “viewed” in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

- Read (vs. 1-4)

In verse 1 we read, “listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you.” In verse 2 we see “keep the commandments of the Lord God.” Moses, here speaking for God tells us we must listen and learn what God has to say to us. We must hear, or in our context, read the words carefully to and be able to do them.

- Respond (vs. 5-8)

But as we move along we find that the process of obeying will require an element of interpretation and application. Verse 6 says it will be our “wisdom and knowledge.” We will need to respond to what we read. The material presented will require thought and reflection perhaps even growth to best follow it. It won’t be in a “look it up in the index” format.

- Rehearse (vs. 9-14)

But as we go on in the passage there is a warning not to forget these words and concepts. To make it easier to comply as adults, we are told to learn it as children. This is presented as somewhat of a safeguard to learning. “Make them known to your children and your children’s children.” Even in a text like this read this on two levels, first for our immediate children and grandchildren, but he is addressing a new nation and he speaks of the children now entering in covenant. Don’t limit this application to the one’s sitting beside your or assume that because you are not personally a parent this text is not directed toward you.

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

- Continually and Comprehensively (esp. vs. 6,7)

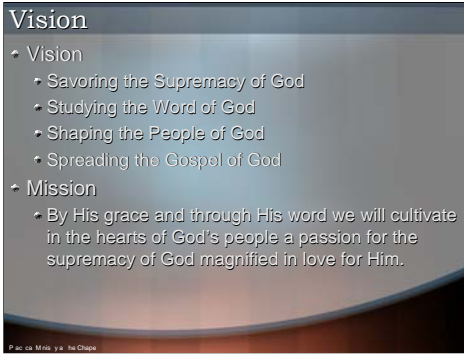
In our next text we find the idea of “teach diligently.” We are told that this at least involves a

Psalm 78

- Commitment (vs. 7,8)

Titus 2:1-9

- Community (vs. 2,3,4,6)



At Clearcreek Chapel we have a vision of the Christian life that we express in four memorable statements, the 4 “S” statements that we found week after week on the fronts of the bulletins. They are: Savoring the Supremacy of God, Studying the Word of God, Shaping the People of God, and Spreading the Gospel of God. Our first priority is to know and love the God who made, sustains and saves us. This God is the focal point and goal of our existence. We were created to worship and find our satisfaction in Him and Him alone.

We are able to understand this because He has revealed Himself to us, from the beginning in the Garden we are “revelation-receivers” and God has provided us a sure Word to know and love Him by. God has chosen to tell us of his character and deeds as it has worked itself out in history by providing us with the authoritative interpretation of these deeds in a book that has come to be known to us as the Bible. We must appropriate this knowledge to love and worship Him in a manner acceptable to Him.

We must give diligence to understand what he has revealed because in this revelation is all we need for life and godliness. Hearing and obeying his words and commands will bring us into conformity with the image of his Son through the work of His Spirit.

We will then in the overflow of the love and delight we have in this God we will share the message of hope that the gospel brings.

This vision for Clearcreek Chapel is articulated in a mission that is intended to describe how this is accomplished. We believe that “by His grace and through His word we will cultivate in the hearts of God’s people a passion for the supremacy of God magnified in love for Him.”

Vision

- By God's grace and through His Word, we will cultivate in the hearts of the children of Clearcreek Chapel a passion for the supremacy of God that will become a love for Him and be seen in love for one another.
- Our vision is to see the thoughts, emotions and behaviors of the children of Clearcreek Chapel transformed by the Word of God so that God is magnified by their faith in every aspect of their lives.

We restate this for Children's ministries as: "By God's grace and through His Word, we will cultivate in the hearts of the children of Clearcreek Chapel a passion for the supremacy of God that will become a love for Him and be seen in love for one another.

This leads us to a particular view of the vision that we have expressed as: "Our vision is to see the thoughts, emotions and behaviors of the children of Clearcreek Chapel transformed by the Word of God so that God is magnified by their faith in every aspect of their lives."

Partnering Ministry

- ...providing a *framework* for Scriptural knowledge that is congruent with the purposes and designs emphasized at Clearcreek Chapel.
- ...developing program and material to be used in the *families* that comprise the Chapel.

As articulated by Pastor Devon so well last week, we also view Children's Ministries as being in partnership with families. We are intending to provide a framework for Scriptural knowledge that is congruent with the purposes and designs emphasized at Clearcreek Chapel.

I know I have been asked many times by adults, "what can I read, or how can I enhance my personal discipleship?" and I usually respond by pointing them to resources that are going on in the ministries of the Chapel. Adult Bible Education and Sermon series are all intentionally developed to provide structured growth and change. Resources are available to enhance and take these issues further for your growth but the elders create these structures, not just to say we have done so but because we are giving you materials to grow. Often, rejection of these structures represents a rejection of authority which should be taken seriously.

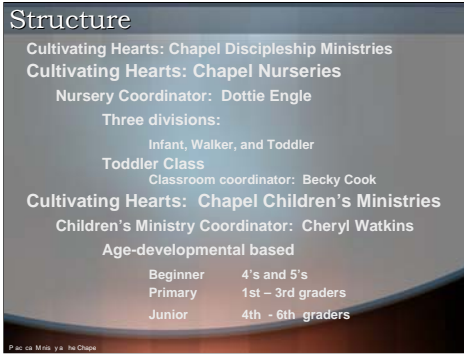
In the same manner Children's materials are produced. We are consciously developing program and material to be used, not only within the walls of the Chapel, but in the families that comprise the Chapel, because of their direction, content and perceived goals for their lives. Children's ministry should reflect a shepherding function and should be viewed as such by both the leadership and the flock.

Ministry Ideals

- ...increase our emphasis on *family* involvement
- ...continue to focus on *ministry* concepts
- ...develop staff *discipleship* and interpretive skills

With this in mind we are continually shaping this ministry to best fit the Scriptural model of learning, the content that the Scripture emphasizes, and to create an atmosphere where the relevance of Biblical material is understood and assumed. Toward those goals, we hope to pursue these concepts even more fully:

1. We want to be more clear about and increase our emphasis on family involvement
2. We will continue to focus on “Ministry” concepts in the staff. From the time I began in this ministry I have emphasized to those involved to view themselves primarily as engaged in heart-ministry to those entrusted to their care. Often in children’s ministries the mind-set is one of “doing a job” or “teaching a lesson.” We hope to create an environment that seeks to apply the truths of the Scripture to lives. This is a ministry oriented approach rather than a task oriented approach.
3. We hope to continue then by leadership to further develop our staff in its discipleship and interpretive skills



Cultivating Hearts: Chapel Discipleship Ministries

Cultivating Hearts: Chapel Nurseries

Nursery Coordinator: Dottie Engle

“Getting an overhaul with new curriculum thoughts and formatting. We will be instituting a stronger spiritual emphasis even among the infant nursery, and strengthening the training and support structure and perhaps even putting a new face on the concept of nursery ministry.”

Three divisions: Infant, Walker, and Toddler

“There are always staffing needs in the nurseries, we will likely have to streamline soon to accommodate our holes.”

Toddler Class

Classroom coordinator: Becky Cook

“This class will see change the soonest with new curriculum from Children Desiring God, children’s curriculum division of Desiring God Ministries and Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis (home of John Piper).”

Cultivating Hearts: Chapel Children’s Ministries

Children’s Ministry Coordinator: Cheryl Watkins

Age-developmental based

Beginners 4’s and 5’s

Primary 1st – 3rd graders

Junior 4th - 6th graders

“These groups also have Team Leaders that coordinate the staff working in each age. The team leaders have adopted the ministry model for their respective age groups and see their role as ministry to children. In the next year we will begin implementing ideas to better involve and engage the families in these areas as well.”

Structure

- Scripture Scholars: Sunday 9:15am**
 - Scripture Scholars is *The Chapel's* approach to the traditional Sunday School. The focus is upon learning and mastering Scriptural content with the use of curriculum which is intentionally God-centered.
- Learning Lambs: Sunday 10:30am**
 - Learning Lambs then reviews the lesson taught during Scripture Scholars with added application. Recognizing the intent of the Bible to impact our thinking and doing, this class orients the facts of Scripture to the lives of the children in the Beginner and Primary age groups
- Scripture Sowers Sunday 6:30 pm**
 - Scripture Sowers is a club-type program emphasizing Scriptural memory. The memory work is derived from the Scripture Scholars curriculum and the gospel presentation, *Two Ways to Live*. Class time is intended to provide skills and backgrounds that will enhance the learning in the other Children's Ministries areas.

This ministry structure is then arranged according to the times at which we meet.

Scripture Scholars:	Sunday	9:15am	
Learning Lambs:		Sunday	10:30am
Scripture Sowers	Sunday	6:30 pm	

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Curriculum: New for 2006-2007

Children Desiring God

God-Centered theology:

- "The curriculum reflects reformed theology emphasizing an all powerful, all loving, sovereign God directing everything to serve His glory and His good purpose."
- "We believe that the Bible is a book first and foremost about God. The other characters in the Bible merely point to God..."
- "Bibles are an essential tool for children studying Children Desiring God curricula...children are encouraged to look up scripture passages, discover and respond to the truth"
- "We believe that before God, parents, not churches, have the primary responsibility for the spiritual nurture of their children." We would stress that the primary responsibility is the "church through the parents."
- "For that reason, we strongly encourage parental involvement...Parent Resource Page..."

Curriculum Change for 2006-2007

We are instituting a whole-scale curriculum change for 2006-2007, with the transition to the children's materials available through Desiring God Ministries. They for several years have been writing children's materials but it is just now that a full-orbed curriculum is available. Their materials consistently fit our ministry goals (no single curriculum will fit exactly and neither does this, but the fit is better). We are choosing their material that reads through the redemptive history of the Bible in a single year as our key unit. We are adapting it for both Primaries and Juniors (their curriculum is intentionally flexible with respect to age-ranges) and both groups will begin in the fall with this. The remainder of the curriculum takes significant themes and traces them through the Bible as well.

Some quotes from there materials will help you see our excitement in this project:

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"Bibles are an essential tool for children studying Children Desiring God curricula...children are encouraged to look up scripture passages, discover and respond to the truth"

Here is one area we will "nuance" a bit differently but I think we agree in the main.

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Curriculum

• Scope and Sequence

• Beginner

- He Established a Testimony: OT stories
- He Has Spoken By His Son: NT stories

• Primary

- In the Beginning...Jesus: Chronology of Redemption
- Faithful to All His Promises
- Jesus, What a Savior
- The ABC's of God

• Junior

- In the Beginning...Jesus: Chronology of Redemption
- My Purpose Will Stand
- To Be Like Jesus
- How Majestic is Your Name

P. 20, 21, Miss. 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11