



Volume 12, Issue 1

February-March 2023

WINTER TIME

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The Love of God in the Light of Valentine’s Day

We often think of Valentine’s Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God’s unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine’s Day can be a bitter reminder of their singleness and desire for a relationship. Luckily, God doesn’t leave anyone, single or in a relationship, out of His unending love and grace.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

God is love itself. We wouldn’t have any conception of “love” at all if it weren’t for God, the definition of love.

God further defines love in the classic 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 passage that reads, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”

God describes love in this way, and then tells us that He is love. This further emphasizes that God himself is all of these things.

God is patient and kind. He keeps no record of wrongs. He always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. God’s love is a perfect love that no one on earth could ever emulate.

We often read this 1 Corinthians passage near Valentine’s Day or at weddings to remind us what love should look like, but God is the perfect demonstration of it.

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

He gave up His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

The theologian C.S. Lewis once said, “He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less.”

God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine’s Day, remember to set your sights not on earthly relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

For in Jesus,
my love for you
is revealed.

John 17:26

Four Signs of the End Times



It has been an exciting time as we have been studying through the book of Daniel the past several months. It is amazing to see how the prophecies in Daniel knock on the door of our own culture at the present time. Never before in history has our culture degenerated into the mires of immorality as it has in our present time. It is amazing to me that the vast majority of the world cannot see that Israel and Judah's rejection of God is repeating itself, starting at the top of our country's leaders. It is not hard to see that God has handed America over to the natural consequence of deserting Him. This is how the Apostle Paul saw things in his own day:

Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.
(Romans 1: 28-32,24 (NLT))

That's a pretty harsh indictment from God. All of this is to bring attention to several things to consider in light of our prophetic studies. One of the foremost authorities on Bible prophecy is David Jeremiah. God has blessed him to bring clear truth from the Bible on future events. Dr. Jeremiah says this, "I can say with certainty that we are closer to the Rapture than ever before."

In His Olivet discourse, Jesus stated that no one—including Himself and the angels—knows when the Rapture will occur (Matthew 24:36). But prophetic events cast shadows, giving us a foreshadowing of what is to come. In anticipation of the end of the age, our Lord outlined several signs that would indicate His return was drawing near. These phenomena are increasingly evident in our world today. There are (4) signs that have significance that show how close we are to the amazing event of the Rapture.

SIGN #1 — The Sign of Deception

Deception may be one of the greatest threats to the Church today, but it is nothing new. Before the religious reforms of ancient Israel's King Josiah, the priests—God's representatives to the people—set up idols to false gods in the temple. And the people willingly participated in this idolatry. They didn't throw God out of their worship. Instead, they treated Him like He was one of many gods. The Israelites synthesized their religion with another. For all the deception going on today, we cannot spend our time chasing down every rumor. Our time is better spent focusing on the solution, and that is Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

SIGN #2 — Disputes Among the Nations

Jesus warned His disciples that the end of the age would be marked by "wars and rumors of wars" with nations rising against each other (Matthew 24: 6, 7). As dissension escalates, we can view it as a sign of the times. The book of Revelation tells us that conflict—ceaseless, unending, terrible war—will fill the Tribulation period, and it will escalate until the entire world is involved

(continued)

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Many countries live at peace today, but there is a growing sense of instability in international affairs. It has been reported that fifty percent of all research scientists are involved in arms development. There is at least one military weapon and four thousand pounds of explosives for every man, woman, and child on earth. As shocking as this may seem, long ago the Bible predicted an escalation of conflict, border skirmishes, race wars, and national battles during the End Times.

SIGN #3 — The Sign of Devastation

Along with the deception and disputes of the Last Days, Jesus warned of “famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7). We live in a day when we can scarcely turn on the TV without seeing someone trying to raise money to feed the hungry. Even though God has blessed us with a fruitful, abundant planet, millions of people in the world face food insecurity and scarcity. We are also witnessing an increase in the frequency and intensity of earthquakes. Between 1900 and 1969, there were roughly six major quakes every ten years. Recent data indicates that “major earthquakes” now occur more than once a month and “great earthquakes” shake the globe every year. All of these devastating trends are signs that point to the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

SIGN #4 — The Sign of Deliverance Into Tribulation

In the Last Days, there will be an explosion of antagonism toward God’s people: “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Matthew 24:9). We are already seeing evidence of this today. Headlines carry stories about Christian business owners who are expected to set aside their beliefs in support of secular, progressive ideals. Universities and school boards admit to routinely passing over Christian faculty members for promotions. Everywhere we look, Christianity is under attack in America. As the Tribulation approaches, many more will pay a high price for living out their faith in our world.

Biblical prophecy reminds us that the deception, conflict, devastation, and tribulation of the Last Days is no match for Almighty God. When we experience terrible events like the COVID-19 pandemic and persecution, Scripture reminds us that God declares “the end from the beginning” and that His “counsel shall stand” (Isaiah 46:10). By understanding the signs of the end times in this context, we can join the Apostle Paul in saying, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

*The Little White Church on the Hill has moved into the 21st Century...
We are excited to announce that TrueStream wireless internet is now available!
Network: **Woodville Church Guest**
Password: **christalive***



INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

The church directory is available online via the **Instant Church Directory** App available through Google Play Store or Apple App Store. To access the app, you must first provide the office with an email address. Then, create an account in the app with the same email provided to the office and create a password. You will then need to verify the account through your email.

To make any changes to your information, such as a new phone number or picture, please submit the change on the app or contact Shelly Werner at the church office.

A POEM FOR TODAY!

by Jessica Harlan



My name is Jessi and I have a lot to say,
Though I struggle for words each passing day.
But as my eyes open with every rising sun,
I learn of the new atrocities the world has done.
And as I rise each day, so my anger rises with it;
Is there anything the world would refuse to permit?

Families broken in so many ways;
An entire generation caught in a haze.
What happened to working and punching a clock?
What's the value in views on your worthless tik toks?

The world's gonna end from the gas in my car;
Kids get cut up because "it's not who they are."
Fatherless boys are supposed to be steady,
And a mom can kill her baby because
"She's not quite ready."

Social media is porn, and feminism is hateful;
Marriage is for lust and not to be faithful.
Teachers can be the parents and fill children with lies;
And in blissful ignorance our history dies.

The purity of a woman is considered meek;
The chivalry of a man is considered weak.
Yet all women want now is to be like a man,
Where is the logic, I don't understand.
The strength of a mother, a wife with grace,
The value of a woman has been misplaced.
And what about the men, where are they in this?
Wallowing in pity or gaming in bliss.

Gentlemen, please take back the home,
Raise your standards, or learn to thrive alone.
The American family remains paralyzed,
Till the separate strengths are again realized.

Unless the true Word is taught with life,
The church will fall and end in strife.
The schools, the church, the home, the heart,
Everyone needs Jesus, that's where we start.

Heavenly Father, speak to us all;
Save our cities, lest with them we fall.
And if it's that time, please grant us peace,
As the family fades and all order will cease.

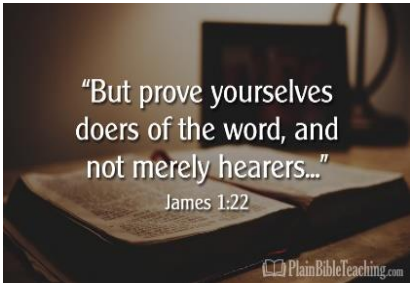
Sickness, suicides, shootings, stress,
Show us your order amidst the mess.
And when the time comes for us to see your face,
I pray to hear "Well done, you've run your race."

Knock on the hearts of the lost once more;
So to Heaven with us, their hearts may soar.
All glory to You and faith in Your plan,
For the cross I kneel, for our flag I will stand.

Jessica Harlan is the daughter of Kurt & DeeAnn Ruiter and is married to Tyler Harlan. She wrote this poem in 2022. Thank you for your thoughtful insight, Jessi.



The Leadership Insider



"But prove yourselves
doers of the word, and
not merely hearers..."

James 1:22

PlainBibleTeaching.com

Several milestones have been achieved recently that the WCC Board would like to share with our church family.

Milestones

- The expansion of our security camera system to 4 additional cameras has been completed effective January 7. The new cameras now cover the church's downstairs area.
- The final revisions to the Church Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the Board. The resulting manuscripts will now be sent to the printing firm to produce new copies of the *Woodville Constitution and Bylaws* booklet and then made available to our congregants.

A Word on Benevolence

- We've had the opportunity to help some individuals and families here at Woodville in recent months. Every now and then, people do find themselves in seasons of life where they are faced with financial difficulties for various reasons.
- For the Elders and Deacons, this is one of the most moving responsibilities that we are charged with. This responsibility is never taken lightly as we consider where these funds come from.
- People come to us, sometimes in tears, feeling like they have run out of options. It is very difficult for them to ask for help. When we are able to tell them that their Church family is able to stand with them financially, it becomes a source of relief and joy and they are always deeply grateful for your help.
- We give glory to God for His rich abundance towards us. We also recognize that we are only able to help those in need because of your generosity and caring hearts. For that, we are grateful!
- Please prayerfully consider what God may move you to do in this coming new year to support those through our benevolence fund who may find themselves in financial distress in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Woodville Community Church Board

In this issue:

SEVERAL WAYS TO COPE WITH CURRENT WORLD EVENTS

Feelings of powerlessness and uncertainty in response to disturbing current events:

- If you're feeling distressed by the news, take a break.
- LIMIT YOUR INTAKE OF NEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA.
- Maintain healthy activities, acts of self-care can make a difference during times of stress.
- Connect with family, friends.
- Take on fewer commitments.
- Most importantly, engage in spiritual or religious practices.
- Relaxation - set aside time to treat yourself to some moments of joy.
- Know your limits. As we all get older, one may need more time to complete a task, so plan accordingly. Show yourself some kindness and ask for support when needed.
- Acknowledge your feelings. Some people experience intense feelings, while others may not allow themselves to feel what they feel without judgement of themselves or others.
- Self-care and community care are connected. When taking time for yourself, you show up as a kinder and more compassionate person to others and can refuel your expectation & enthusiasm.
- Earnestly walk with Jesus Christ 24/7, read the Bible, and pray often.



Thoughts from **BOB,** the Blacksmith

WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

February

- 5 Amanda Baar & Teri Hook
- 12 Amy Hysell & Karen White
- 19 Lynda Kolehouse & Jenna Minor
- 26 Marilyn Davis & Nancy Eveland

March

- 5 Adriana Beckwith & Mary Helmus
- 12 Sharon Stieg & Sue Walta
- 19 Renee Frantz & Deb Thorne
- 26 Barb Atkins & Kim Schaefer





Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Karen White 231-519-9488 as soon as possible.



February 2023



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Sunday WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m.	Greeters for February: <i>Gene & Deb Fisher</i>		1 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	2 Praise Team practice	3	4 Elders' Prayer Time	
SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 a.m.	5 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School	6	7 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	8 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	9 Praise Team practice	10	11 Elders' Prayer Time Chili Cook-off Sledding party 
Tuesday MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 a.m.							
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 a.m.	12 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School	13	14 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study Men's Monthly Bible Study 	15 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	16 Praise Team practice	17	18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Wednesday NIGHT SERVICE 6:30 p.m.							
3rd Monday BOARD MEETING 6:00 p.m.	19 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School	20	21 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study	22 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	23 Praise Team practice	24	25
	26 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School	27 Board Meeting	28 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study				



February Anniversaries

14 Gordon & Marian Witte (59 years)
 16 Richard & LeeAnna Yates



February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 4 Little Ricky Yates | 20 Marilyn Davis |
| 5 Bob Shoemaker | 21 Mary Cook |
| 6 Michael Thorne | 24 Dan Doornbos |
| 8 Amy Hysell | 24 Mike Snyder |
| 19 Bob Doornbos | 25 John Byers |
| Chuck Hanlon | |

Items on this calendar are subject to change



March 2023



Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:40 a.m.

Tuesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
7:00 a.m.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday

AWANA Program
6:00 p.m.

NIGHT SERVICE
6:30 p.m.

3rd Monday

BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Greeters for March: Clint & Shelley Cook			1 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	2 Praise Team practice	3	4 Elders' Prayer Time
5 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	6 Ladies Aid	7 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	8 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	9 Praise Team practice	10	11 Elders' Prayer Time
12 Daylight Savings WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	13	14 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study Men's Evening Bible study	15 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	16 Praise Team practice	17	18 Men's Monthly Breakfast
19 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	20 Ladies Aid	21 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	22 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	23 Praise Team practice	24	25 Elders' Prayer Time
26 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL	27	28 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study	29 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE	30 Praise Team practice	31	



Happy Anniversary

March Anniversaries

- 15 Larry & June Frontjes
- 15 John & Terry Innis



March Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Marian Witte | 19 Gary Frantz |
| 10 DeeAnn Ruitter | 23 Paula Gray |
| 11 Pauline Wabeke | 25 Gabriela Pike |
| 12 Doreen Jusino | 26 Phil Rottman |
| 13 Wes Knight | 28 Jim Edewaard |
| 14 Amanda Hahn | 29 Nancy Redd |
| 15 Lynda Kolehouse | 31 Lori VanderArk |
| 18 June Frontjes | Gary Teja |

Food For Thought...

Frito Cheesy Chili Casserole

8 servings

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 60 minutes^{1/2}

Ingredients

- 1½ pound ground beef
- 1 onion diced
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1½ teaspoons onion powder
- 1½ teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ¾ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon chipotle powder
- 6 tablespoons tomato paste
- 15 ounces tomato sauce
- ½ cup beef stock

For assembly:

- 9 cups lightly crushed Fritos
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- sour cream for serving
- sliced scallions for serving



Instructions

- In a large skillet, brown and crumble the meat over medium-high with the onions.
- Break up the meat until there is no pink left and the onions appear translucent, stirring occasionally.
- Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds until fragrant. Drain any excess fat.
- Add the chili powder, onion powder, garlic powder, salt, cumin, chipotle powder, and tomato paste. Cook for 2 minutes, stirring it all together until combined.
- Add the tomato sauce and beef stock, stir until combined.
- Bring to a simmer and cover, simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Add half of the crushed Fritos into the bottom of a greased 9x13 baking dish.
- Add half of the chili evenly over the Fritos, top with half of the cheese. Repeat with another layer.
- Cover with nonstick foil, or spray a piece of foil with cooking spray and place it spray side down on top of the baking dish.
- Bake for 20-30 minutes until warmed through and the cheese is melted.
- Uncover and bake for an additional 10 minutes.
- Serve immediately with a dollop of sour cream and sliced scallions.

ENJOY!



FLOURLESS BANANA BROWNIES

Total Time: 30 minutes

Yield: 16 (2-inch) brownies

Diet: Gluten Free

INGREDIENTS

- 5 ounces **semi-sweet chocolate**, chopped
- 2 large **bananas**, *overripe* (about 1 cup)
- ½ cup **tahini** (or other nut butter)
- 1 large **egg**
- 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract**
- ½ cup **granulated sugar**
- ¼ cup **unsweetened cocoa powder**
- 1 ounce **chocolate chips** (optional, for the top)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Spray an 8-inch square baking pan with cooking oil spray and line with parchment paper, allowing the paper to overhang off of the two sides for easy removal.
2. Melt the chocolate in a medium heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Make sure the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water, or you will burn the chocolate. Whisk until melted and smooth. Remove from heat and let the chocolate cool down.
3. In a large mixing bowl, mash the bananas with a fork. Add tahini and use a hand mixer to beat together until incorporated.
4. Add egg, vanilla extract, and sugar, and beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. This will ensure that the brownies have a classic crinkly top.
5. Add in cocoa powder and melted chocolate and beat on low until incorporated, about 30 seconds.
6. Transfer batter into the lined baking pan and top with chocolate chips (optional).
7. Bake for 20-25 minutes for extra fudgy brownies (a toothpick inserted should still have some crumbs on it, and the middle should slightly jiggle), or bake for 25-30 minutes for brownies that are more set with a cakey texture (toothpick inserted won't have many crumbs on it with minimal to no jiggling in the middle).
8. Allow the brownies to cool in the baking pan on a wire cooling rack. Once cooled, lift it out of the pan and cut into squares. Or enjoy it hot out of the pan with vanilla ice cream.

“...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...”

My wife caught me standing on the bathroom scales, sucking in my stomach. “Ha! That’s not going to help!” she laughed.

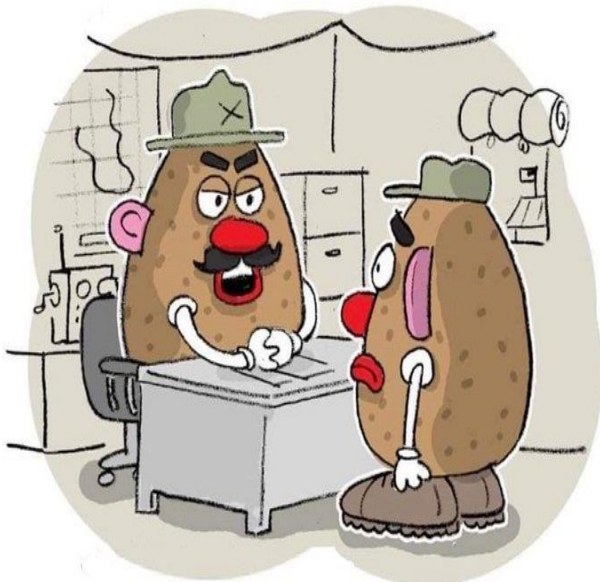
“Sure, it does.” I said.

“It’s the only way I can see the numbers.”

The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve everyone else who is relaxing.

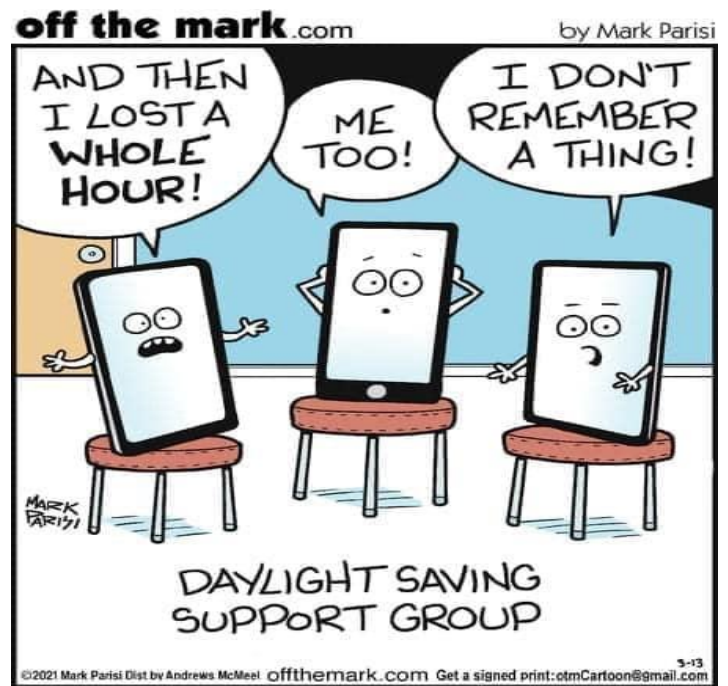


No, the church is a battleship where it’s “all hands on deck” and everyone serves the mission.



BAD NEWS SOLDIER, YOU'RE BEING TRANSFERRED TO A MASH UNIT.

IF MOMS MADE CANDY HEARTS...



In chapter nineteen of Acts, Demetrius of Ephesus felt threatened by the Gospel. What was his job?

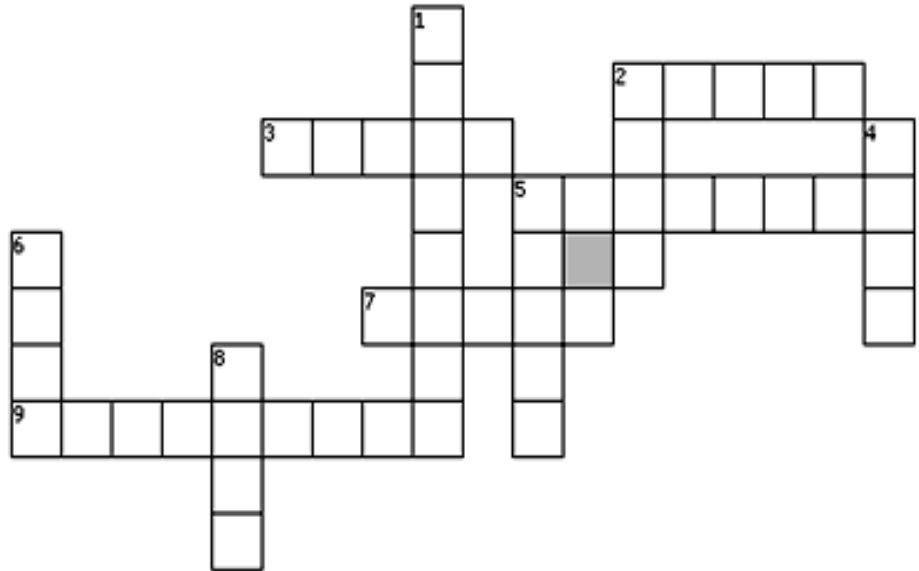
1. Carpenter
2. Silversmith
3. Priest
4. Soldier

Answer on page 11

ACTIVITY PAGE

The True Vine

John 15:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
3. Not dirty
5. A person who works with plants and flowers
7. To toss something through the air
9. Those who follow Jesus

DOWN

1. Arms that grow out from the trunk of a tree
2. Burning flame
4. The opposite of false
5. Praise or honor
6. Something that is spoken
8. A plant that climbs or creeps along the ground

true	fruit	clean	fire
vine	word	glory	disciples
gardener	branches	throw	

Answer: Silversmith

Ephesus was the home of the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Demetrius' trade was dependent on the worship of Artemis as he crafted silver shrines to her. The Christian church taught people to follow only one God and therefore threatened his job. Working with other tradesmen, he created a riot with Artemis as their rallying cry. Afterwards, Paul continued on to Macedonia.