

From Pastor Jim's Desk

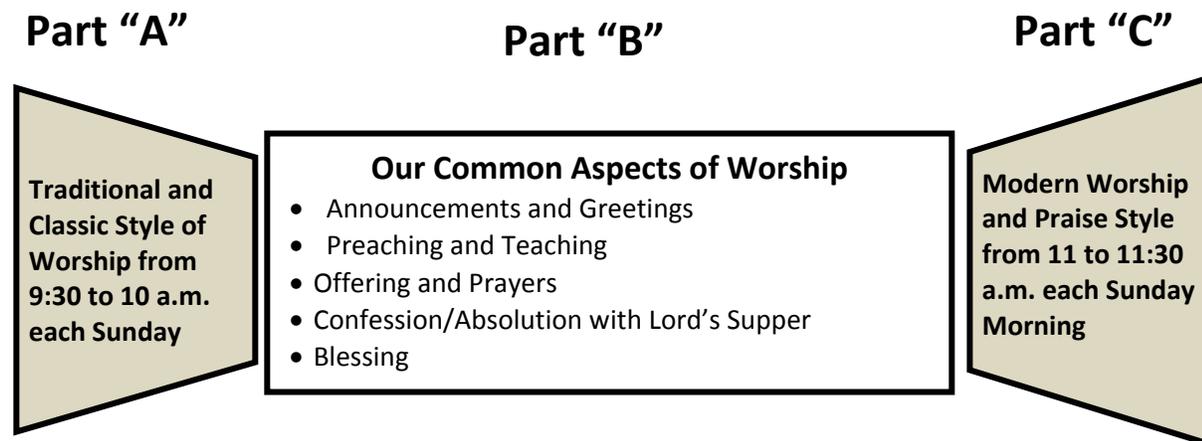
## New Worship Format – Begins 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December

Beginning on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will try a new format in worship, which I have called the “bookends.” So here is the skinny on what’s going to happen.

Everyone who prefers the traditional or classic style of worship will come for worship to begin at 9:30 a.m. (See diagram below – **Part “A”**). Please note this is one-half hour earlier than you are presently use to. At 9:30 the church bells will ring, followed by the Invocation and the singing of our first hymn. We will be singing several hymns, hymns that are your favorites. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a form where you can select your favorite hymn or two or three. We will not sing all verses of each of the hymns, but just a verse or two of several hymns. In addition, we will also join in singing those beloved liturgical hymns, i.e. the “*Gloria in Excelsis*” and we will sing the Introit of the Day and the “*Sanctus*.”

At 10:00 a.m. the rest of our Church Body will join the earlier group as we join in the Greeting and sharing the Peace of the Lord (See diagram below – **Part “B”**). Following the Greeting and Sharing, Pastor Jim will offer any announcement for that day, followed by the Reading of Scripture for that Sunday. After the Reading of Scripture, the congregation will join in either the Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed depending if there is Communion that Sunday or not. Then comes the Preaching and Teaching, followed by the Offering and Prayers. If the Lord’s Supper is celebrated that day, that would follow the Prayers, otherwise the Benediction would follow the Prayers. This will take us all to 11:00 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m. the contemporary music will begin playing (See diagram below – **Part “C”**), as Pastor Jim moves through the congregation dismissing the earlier group and inviting those wishing to stay for contemporary music to gather closer to the front of the sanctuary. Those continuing to worship will do so in a very contemporary style with passion and emphasis. We will sing several contemporary songs. We will not sing all the verses of each song, but two or three as will be most meaningful. If there is a need for further intercessory prayer, or if someone has a testimony of what God is doing in their life to share with the group, we can and will try to include that as well. This portion of our service will not be highly structured so as to allow the Spirit of God to guide and lead us. At 11:30 a.m. this group will be dismissed.

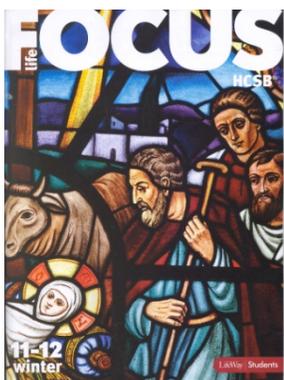


## Preaching and Teaching *NEW* Booklets – Now Available

I am over-joyed at how many people are making use of our weekly studies in preparation for the Sunday Preaching and Teaching. God has promised to bless all who make time to mine the riches of the Scriptures and to grow in their understanding of His Word. St. John people are to be commended for their faithful response to God’s Spirit and for the “teachable attitude” you have exhibited. I praise God for all of you!

Individual study booklets are available for purchase now and will be available through December 18th. After that date, all unused booklets will be returned, so get your copy now. **Cost of the booklet is \$3** and they are **good for three months of study**. Since there are separate booklets for each age group, each person will pick the booklet that best fits their age. There are booklets for Youth (grades 7<sup>th</sup> and up); Adults; and Retirees (see below). Booklets may be shared by husbands and wives, but youth and single adults ought to have their own booklets. The booklets are small enough to be tucked into one’s Bible so that both are close at hand for ready access.

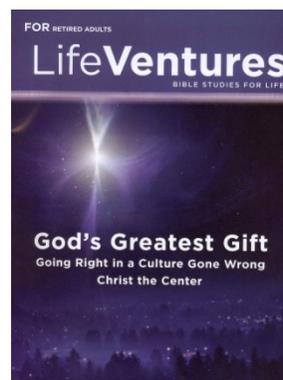
Youth (Grades 7-12)



Adult Material



Retired Adult Material



## “Walk Through the Bible” Study – *Continues to be a Great Blessing!*

“Walk Through the Bible.” Classes meet on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m. for people who are retired and available during the day and again from 7:00 until 8:30 pm for people who work during the day. The same material is taught, so if one week you find yourself having to switch the time you attend – No Problem! There is still time to join this class, but please let Pastor Jim know, so that he has materials for you. **Please note that there is but ONE class in December because of the Christmas Holidays.** Class schedule for the next several months will be as follows:

Date and Time	Book to be Studied
December 13 <sup>th</sup> - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	Genesis Part 2
<b>NO ADDITIONAL CLASS IN DECEMBER</b>	
January 10, 2012 – first class in the New Year	Finish Genesis and start the Book of Exodus
January 24, 2012 - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	The Book of Exodus
February 14, 2012 - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	The Book of Exodus
February 28, 2012 - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	Finish the Book of Exodus
March 13, 2012 - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	Start the Book of Leviticus
March 27, 2012 - 1:30-3 pm or 7-8:30 pm	The Book of Leviticus

## Coming Sunday “Teaching Events”

### **CHRISTMAS** *The Real Story*



In December – “Christmas – The Real Story”

**On December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** – Pastor will teach on “Christmas – the Real Story.” We are absolutely amazed as to how much our Western Culture has shaped the Christmas Story we have been taught. When we investigate the Bible, many of these supposed details get changed.

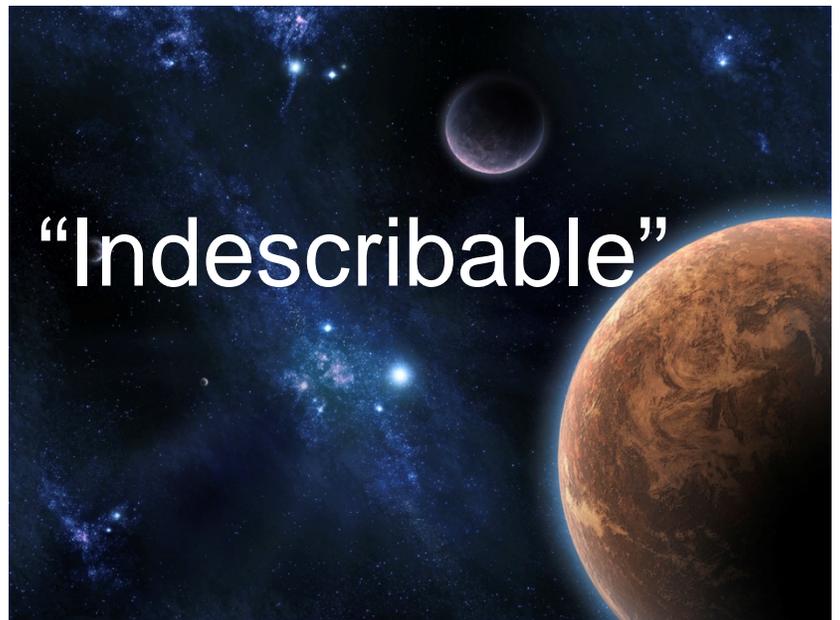
- ✓ Were there three Wise Men?
- ✓ Did they show up with the Shepherds just after Jesus was born?
- ✓ If Jesus was laid to rest in a manger, does that mean He was born in a barn?

Come and find out the real Biblical story of Christmas. This would be a great event to which to invite your friends or relatives!

### **“The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”**

Night after night they remind us of just how small we are and how huge our God is. On **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** Pastor Jim will show the DVD by Pastor Louis Giglio, who will share about this God of unfathomable size and power. This God who knows every star by name also knows yours and mine and has orchestrated the most stunning rescue imaginable in His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Come and be amazed!**



# “Indescribable”

### **How Great Is Our God?**

“Your life is a miracle, and the Creator of the universe knows you personally inside and out.”

God is big enough to breath out stars, yet intricate enough to fashion together the trillions of cells that make up who we are, On **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** Pastor Jim will show the next DVD by Pastor Louis Giglio, who will talk about our God who is intimately acquainted with you and promises to carry you through all of life.

If you have ever been down – *this will pick you up!*  
**Come and be Inspired!**

