



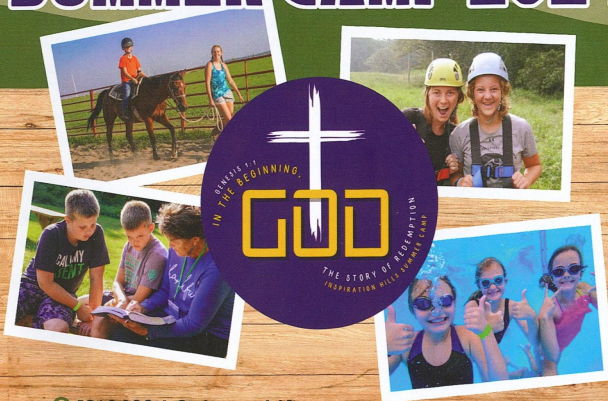
The Newsletter

February 2024

*Glorify God in all we do,
Grow with Him daily &
Go with Him to share His love.*



SUMMER CAMP 2024



1242 280th St, Inwood, IA
ihills@inspirationhills.org
inspirationhills.org
712-986-5193



REGISTER ONLINE AT [INSPIRATIONHILLS.ORG](https://inspirationhills.org)

February at a Glance

- 7: 6:00pm Agape Steak Supper
7:00pm Agape Movie (see announcement in this newsletter)
- 12: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: 2:00pm FRC is in charge of Nursing Home Services
- 19: 9:30am Faith Bible Study
3:00pm Patience Bible Study
- 21: 6:30am Men's Lenten Breakfast at Sibley Christian Reformed Church

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School 4yrs - Adult
Coffee Fellowship Time
- 6:30 pm Fellowship Bible Studies

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evenings:

- 6:30 pm Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm MS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm HS Remnant Youth Group

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783



View our Website at: sibleyfcc.org



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through January 27:

- **General Fund: \$19,926.15**
Budget: 443,532.29; 4% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$1,095**
Budget: \$68,275.23; 1% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$0**

Special Offering for February



High School & Middle School Remnant

Faith In Action for February:

Random Acts of Kindness

Leave a thank you note Offer your seat
Cycle courteously BE TOLERANT Let another go first
Bake cookies for firefighters Give a compliment
Help a student make friends Assist an adult
Give a balloon away Lend a classmate a pencil
Celebrate something every day Encourage a friend
Respect others Walk a dog Do a favor
Forgive mistakes Smile at someone new



Meeting Minutes

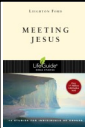
Consistory Meeting Highlights

January 15, 2023

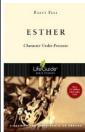
Due to inclement weather, the January Consistory meeting business was conducted via emails. Here are the results of the limited meeting:

- Approved: Dar Jurgens to use the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen on November 4, 2024 for a PEO meeting.
- Approved: Josh Lucas to use the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and Sanctuary on February 7 from 6-9pm for their annual Remnant Agape Meal and Movie.

GROWING IN THE WORD



Faith Bible Study will meet on **Monday, February 19 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #8 "Jesus the Servant Leader" in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture will be Mark 10:32-45. Luella will be leader and Lynn will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!



Patience Bible Study will meet on **Monday, February 19 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #6 "Recognizing Unrighteousness," in our book *Esther*. Scripture for the lesson is Esther 7. Barb will lead and serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning.



6:30pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!

****Message Discussion and Application Bible Study****

*Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home, *FRC Fellowship Hall

****Digging into God's Word****

*Fireside Room

All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend.

Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let's grow together!

Trivia Time!!

1. What was the name of one of the two friends who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection?
2. The word "ball" is mentioned only one time in the Bible in the book of _____?
3. Jerusalem was also known by two other names. What were those names?
4. How many pieces of silver did the Philistines promise Delilah if she could find out the secret of Samson's strength?
5. Who saw the portraits of handsome young men and fell in love with what she saw?
6. Where do you find the longest verse in the Bible?
7. How did Michal, David's wife, help David to escape the king's messengers?
8. What prophet talked about a girl being exchanged for a drink of wine?
9. What was the name of the Bible character who had eighteen wives and sixty concubines who gave birth to eighty-eight children?
10. There was a certain king who had his women perfumed for a year before they came to him. What was his name?

February Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Dale Honken
Aiden De Zeeuw | 13 Michael Hulstein
Nancy Soat
Emma Boeke | 21 Amy Van Marel
Jeannette Juffer
Riley Alexander |
| 2 Mark Dykstra
Hunter Rockman
Jim Ver Steeg | 14 Elesson Joseph | 23 Daphne Bremer |
| 3 Jenny Weg | 16 Dianne Kass
Harold Van Der Sloom
Jan Henrichs | 24 Ron Dykstra
Mariah Elser |
| 4 Dick Oldenkamp | 17 Jacob Runia
Kendra De Boer | 26 Justin Van Tilburg |
| 5 Karen Jurgens | 19 Nick Mans | 27 Dave McDyer
Zoey Alsip |
| 7 Ashilyn Hulstein | 20 Eric Schiphoff
Joanna Lucas | 28 LaVonne Prins |
| 10 Keegan Van Der Sloom
Terry Ackerman
Haiden Wielenga | | 29 Connor Christensen |
| 12 Loren Hulstein | | |

I have found
THE ONE
Whom my soul Loves
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 14 | Burt and Jan Henrichs - 49 years |
| 15 | Gary and Jessa Wolter - 61 years |



If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 4: E: Marlin Roelfs
C: Janice Runia
W: Marlin and Kathy Runia
- 11: E: Brian and Heidi Sayler/family
C: Eric Schiphoff
W: Hugh Schiphoff
- 18: E: Lynn Schram
C: Ted and Eileen Schutte
W: Verlyn and Donna Smidt
- 25: E: LeRoy and Karen Stevenson
C: Dave and Lesa Stofferan
W: Greg Tracy/family



Sunday School Nursery

- 4: Kira Christensen & Kathy Verdoorn
11: Teresa Hurlburt & Peg Van Kley
18: Megan Travaille & Megan Ackerman
25: Sandy Heronimus & Chelsey Alexander

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 4: Ed and Jan Harskamp
11: Bill and LaDonn Hartzell
18: Dwayne and Janice Heikes
25: Scott and Jamie Hulstein

Children & Worship during the service



- 4: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 11: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 18: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 25: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:

Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #2

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Luella Eggink
- Jan/Ed Harskamp

Library Volunteers



- 4: Alfreda Verdoorn
11: Kathy/Joel Verdoorn
18: Ruth Ann Wiersma
25: Gert Gaalswyk

Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph

We Need To Get To His Work Before The Night Come

Bible Study Verse

John 9:1-4

As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.



Thoughts

I have been an outdoorsman now for 33 years. During these years I have made many mistakes and had difficulties beset me. I would often question why these things have happened to me.

As the years have gone by I have been able to help others learn through my experience and mistakes. Wait a second, why did they happen to me? So I could help others.

Action Point

I use to be a rough man who lived a rough life. I don't say this light heartedly or to call attention to myself. I am ashamed of a lot of the things I have done.

After I came to Christ in 1999, I would often question why God allowed me to walk on such a dirty path. Years ago when the Lord led me to serve in men's ministry and to work with fatherless boys, I found my answer.

He uses my past to help others so they can see what He has done in me. Jesus healed this blind man and he in returned shares the hope that can only come from Christ. We all have a hope and a work to do. We need to get to His work before the night comes.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Think about mentoring a fatherless boy. A Christian man can make such a huge impact in a boy's life. If you are interested check out awesome ministries like Fathers in the Field.

Trivia Time Answers!!!

1. Cleopas (Luke 24:13,18) 2. Isaiah (Is. 22:18) 3. Jebus (Judges 19:10);Salem (Ps 76:2) 4. 1100 pieces of silver (Judges 16:5) 5. Aholibah (Ezekiel 23:11-16) 6. Esther (Esther 8:7) 7. She put a dummy in the bed (1 Sam. 19:12-16) 8. Joel (Joel 3:3) 9. Rehoboam (2 Chron 11:21) 10. Ahasuerus (Esther 2:12)

From the library--



This month there are three books but seven stories. The first book by Tracie Peterson is *THE ALASKA SAGA*. One book containing three stories that are about the one family but two generations. *A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW*: Nurse Julie Eriksson cares for the victims of the 1925 diphtheria epidemic while Sam waits quietly, willing to give anything to see her save their own struggling relationship. *DESTINY'S ROAD*: Beth Hogan loses her beloved husband in World War II and returns to Alaska with her two sons, only to find their remote village overrun by soldiers and civilians coming to build the Alcan Highway. *IDITAROD DREAM*: Confident, independent Rita Eriksson travels to her hometown of Tok, Alaska, to enter the dogsled race. Her coach, Mark, hopes and prays against all odds that he'll become part of her dreams too. Can their relationship survive the Iditarod race?"



THE LAWS OF ATTRACTION by Mary Connealy is the second book in "Wyoming Sunrise" series. "If widowed seamstress Nell Armstrong has to make one more pair of boring chaps for the cowboys in her tiny Wyoming town, she might just quite the business altogether! So meeting Brand Nolte, a widower struggling to raise three girls on his own, seems like her dream come true. Brand has no idea how to dress the girls properly, and Nell finally has a chance to create beautiful outfits while also teaching the girls to sew. But Nell is much more than a seamstress, and the investigative skills and knowledge she picked up alongside her late lawman husband soon become critical when a wounded stagecoach/robbery survivor is brought to town. As danger closes in from all sides, Nell and Brand must discover who has a target trained on them before it's too late." If you read *FORGED IN LOVE*, you will want to follow up and read this book.



Book #2 in "On Devonshire Shores" series is *A WINTER BY THE SEA* and is in *LARGE PRINT*. "When the Duke and Duchess of Kent and their daughter, the future Queen Victoria, rent neighboring Woolbrook Cottage for the winter, the Summer sisters are called upon to host three of the royal family's male staff in their seaside house. But they soon realize they've invited secrets and intrigue into their home. Meanwhile, Emily Summers longs to become an author. A local publisher offers to consider her novel if she will first write a Sidmouth guidebook for him. Emily agrees and begins researching the area with help from the Duke of Kent's handsome private secretary. But a surprise visitor from the past shows up at Sea View leaving Emily torn between the desires she's long held dear and her budding dreams for the future. Return to the Devonshires coast with the Summer sisters where loyalties are tested, secrets come to light, and new love emerges"

There is a book for you, stop at the library soon.

Jeannette Juffer



PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Roger and Carol Iedema | 16. Jamie Klaassen; Haley, Colt, Katie |
| 2. Jason and Gina Jacobsma | 17. Pray for our College Students |
| 3. Pray for our College Students | 18. Pray for our Church |
| 4. Pray for our Church | 19. Joanne Klaassen |
| 5. Merlyn and Karen Janssen | 20. Kevin and Laurel Klaassen; Natalie |
| 6. Jeannette Juffer | 21. David and Donna Kleinwolterink |
| 7. John and Jan Juffer | 22. Greg and Deb Kusters |
| 8. Alan and Lacey Julius; Witten, Sayla | 23. Laurie Kraayenbrink |
| 9. Dennis and Dar Jurgens | 24. Pray for our College Students |
| 10. Pray for our College Students | 25. Pray for our Church |
| 11. Pray for our Church | 26. Mitch and Abby Kreykes; Dawson, Paisley |
| 12. Ethel Jurgens | 27. Martha Krikke |
| 13. Karen Jurgens | 28. Charles and Katha Kruger |
| 14. Dianne Kass | 29. Pam Kruger |
| 15. Clint Klaassen; Haley, Colt, Katie | |

College Students:

Marissa Ackerman
Halle Block
Tayler Bremer
Madison Brouwer
Regan Crichton
Keegan De Zeeuw
Makya Dykstra
Maverick Elser
Jared Kruger
Emma Langstraat
Matthew McDougal
Gannon Rockman

MacKenzie Beyer
Kaden Maxwell
Teddy Van Gelder

Carter Brouwer
Andrea Leusink

Dalten Bremer
Ashilyn Hulstein
Natalie Klaassen

Grant Brouwer
Ryan Van Marel

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR
Luke 21:36

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &
Adrian Bobb
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki
Brian & Donna Renes
J.J. & Tim TenClay
Rowland & Jan Van Es
Grace Covenant Ministries

PRAYER JOURNAL



VALENTINES DAY!

It's February, and we are truly in the *bleak mid-winter*. We are halfway through winter and on our way to spring! Yet we also have a lovely (colorful) day set aside to think about love.

Americans will celebrate this year and are expected to spend about \$26 billion, or about \$200 per household. The most popular gifts are candy, greeting cards, and flowers. Many will include a special night out, while others will have a special meal at home. Hallmark acknowledges that Valentine's Day is the second largest card-giving holiday, but I am happy to report that more

will be candy. In general, men spend more on this holiday than women. In 2023 they spent \$286 versus \$103 (Lending Tree)

Do you know the origins of this holiday? A bit of internet research led me to the story of two different Valentines who were executed on February 14, in different years, by Emperor Claudius in the 3rd century. Both Valentines were declared martyrs by the Catholic Church, and so were given a feast day. In the Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century) mentions this feast day.

The modern romantic holiday may have its roots in the *Parliament of Fowls (1382)* by Geoffrey Chaucer. The story was written to commemorate the first anniversary of the engagement of two 15-year-olds - King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. In the 15th and 16th centuries poems, letters, and essays emerged along with the idea of courtly love. A manuscript from 1415 is the oldest existing original Valentine poem. It is part of the manuscript collection at the British Library.

The invention of the printing press in the 15th century made it possible to invent the Valentine card, which became popular in the late 18th century. However, it was very expensive to purchase a card and send it. Paper and postage were not as inexpensive as they are today.

Mass-produced valentines emerged in the 1840s and were even embellished with lace and ribbons. As Christians, we are to love one another, and we ought to demonstrate that love in a way that honors God and is visible to the watching world. Read the next page to get a look into God's view of Christian Love and its importance in his view of our lives.

PS—I like dark chocolate!

<https://www.lendingtree.com/debt-consolidation/holiday-spending-statistics/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>

Sibley First Reformed Church Agape Meal and a Movie

Wednesday, February 7 -- 6:00-9:00 pm

STEAK SUPPER (CATERED BY 1015 STEAKHOUSE)
WITH CHEESY POTATOES, GREEN BEANS & A BREAD ROLL

Movie "God's Not Dead: We the People" will be shown following Meal

FREEWILL DONATION

**Call 712-754-2783, Talk to Josh Lucas or
stop at the church office to make your reservation!**

A High School Remnant Fundraiser

THE MARKS OF THE CHRISTIAN

In 1970, Dr. Francis Schaeffer published a small book titled *The Mark of the Christian*, and he considered it one of his most important works. The book focuses on two verses from the gospel of John that declare that Christian love is the true mark of the believer.

One is John 13:34-35 where Jesus says, "**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another**" (NASB).

The other is John 17:21, where Jesus is praying to the Father "**that they all may be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me**" (NASB).

I found the emphasis that Jesus put on our love for fellow believers as the foundation for our witness to the world astonishing! Non-believers can judge our commitment to Christ, and they can judge whether or not Jesus was sent by God, by our love for our Christian brothers and sisters. **First**, this love is not mushy or gooey. It is honest, and it is visible. We must be able to say we were wrong, we are sorry, and we must be willing to help others to do the same. We must care for everyone in our midst who is in need. We are to worship God together in love and to serve each other. This isn't about organizational unity or total agreement. It is about our bond with Christ and a love just for other Christians. The first century Christians astonished the world around them by loving the orphan and the widow, for breaking down separations by social standing, and for standing together in the face of extreme adversity. *I have known this love at Sibley FRC!*

Second, we are, as believers, to love others as well. This is a different kind of love. Christians are hold the answers to self-worth, identity, and dignity in our hands. Our world is convinced that we have to *find our own worth, our own dignity and to follow our own hearts*. The results are lost and lonely people who hate themselves, others and have the highest suicide rates in history. We know about the Good Samaritan and about loving our neighbor. This love we have the world searches for but can't find. As Schaeffer wrote,

"What then shall we conclude but that as the Samaritan loved the wounded man, we as Christians are called upon to love all men as neighbors, loving them as ourselves. Second, that we are to love all true Christian brothers in a way that the world may observe. This means showing love to our brothers in the midst of our differences-great or small-loving our brothers when it costs us something, loving them even under times of tremendous emotional tension, loving them in a way the world can see. In short, we are to practice and exhibit the holiness of God and the love of God, for without this we grieve the Holy Spirit.

Love-and the unity it attests to-is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father." (p.204)



A Letter from Pastor Colas

To: First Reformed Church

The Church of Christ in Lagossette, Haiti greets you all in the name of our Lord Jesus. I thank you all for the gift I received in December. Please continue to pray for my family, community and our church. We truly appreciate the prayers.

We continue to pray for you all at First Reformed Church and the community of Sibley. We love you brothers and sisters and can not wait to meet some of you in person sometime.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and are having a joyous new year so far.

Peace be with you all!

Colas Montrema, lead pastor.



Babies Blessings Table

We are so excited to be starting this ministry here at First Reformed Church!!

Donations for baby supplies are needed!!
Beginning on February 1st, and each month afterward, we will be asking for donations of diapers, outfits, wipes, pacifiers, gift cards to buy formula, diaper rash cream, etc. All of the things that you can think of that a new parent would need for a new baby.

****Please place all donations on the table in the Narthex under the west balcony stair case.****

If you know of someone who is in need, please have them contact Josh Lucas and he will make arrangements for them to get their supplies. If you have any other questions, please let Josh or anyone on the Outreach Team know.

Remember ALL babies are a blessing!!



Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure: If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

- Classes as scheduled 4,11,18,25

Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades):

- Jan 3: Classes as Scheduled 4,11,18,25

MS and HS Remnant Youth Group:

- Feb 7: Agape Supper

Groups as scheduled: 7,14,21,18

College Addresses

Ryan Van Marel
804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Ashilyn Hulstein
718 9th Ave
Brookings, SD 56007

Dalton Bremer
Rm# 612 A-2
1110 North Dubuque St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Andrea Leusink
BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer
707 11th Street
Apt. #313
Brookings, SD 57007

MacKenzie Beyer
610 W. 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Ted Van Gelder
SDSU
Young Hall 324-A1
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Kaden Maxwell
104 S. Harmon Drive
Mitchell, SD 57301

Grant Brouwer
1235 SE University Ave
Apt. #205
Waukee, IA 50263

Marissa Ackerman
Binnewies Hall 326
Box 2810
SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

Halle Block
204 Beach Road
Room #201
Ames, IA 50013-0025

Taylor Bremer
SDSU
Young Hall 273
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Madison Brouwer
901 Rose Street
Apt. #307
Vermillion, SD 57069

Regan Crichton
Iowa Lakes CC
Estherville, IA

Keegan De Zeeuw
812 University Street
Box #173
Pella, IA 50219

Makya Dykstra
1020 West Norway
Apt. 206
Mitchell, SD 57301

Maverick Elser
3455 Holdrege Street
Lincoln, NE 68503

Jared Kruger
410 Campus Drive
Appt. 4
Calmar, IA 52132

Emma Langstraat
Young Hall 273
SDSU
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Matthew McDougall
Room #206
IA Lakes Comm. College
3200 College Drive
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

Gannon Rockman
3099c Nest Ave.
Sheldon, IA 51201

If your student will have a different address for the 2023-2024 school year please let the office know.

Hello First Reformed Church,

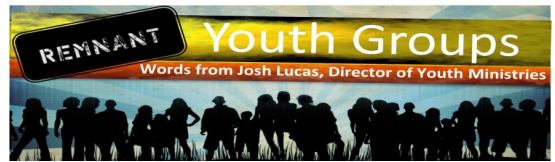
There is something about the “D” word that just makes everyone shift in their seats or makes them uncomfortable. This “D” word is one that no parent truly wants to do, but it is something that needs to happen from time to time. That “D” word is “Discipline.” This What is discipline?

Discipline simply means the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience. What are we doing when we discipline? We are training our children to obey the rules and to know correct behavior. What does effective discipline look like? This is a great question because there is a lot that goes into this answer. What is your discipline accomplishing? What is the behavior you are disciplining for? These are all questions that one must ask before implementing discipline on your child. If we are wanting an answer to this question, we must always turn to the Bible first to see does God’s word have anything to say about this question. Ironically, there is a lot in the Bible about discipline. Let’s take a look at some these passages and see what God’s word says about discipline.

Hebrews 12:11 ESV, “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” The author of Hebrews explains that discipline even though it is painful and unpleasant will produce fruit of righteousness. That is the whole concept of discipline is to have your children produce that fruit of righteousness. Proverbs 3:11-12, “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” Solomon explaining that discipline is not just from a good father, but also from God. There are consequences for our actions/sins and there are times where God shows us discipline. Solomon gives another controversial explanation of discipline and that is love. Parents who discipline their children show them love when they do it. Hence Proverbs 13:24, “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.” Discipline is an act of love because, as I have stated in my previous article, you want what is best for your children and you care about the choices that they are making. Of course, in the moment it may seem that you do not love them, but that is the painful and unpleasant part that Hebrews 12 is talking about. Also, on this note from Proverbs 13:24 “the rod” is not just talking about discipline as a whole it is talking about spanking or a physical discipline. There is a context to this. One simple rule that Hannah and I follow when disciplining our children is that we do not leave a lasting mark on the kids. For example, bruises, cuts, etc. However, if you spank it needs to hurt, see Hebrews 12:11. On another note, if you have chosen not to spank, I do not think that you are sinning, and scripture would not say you are sinning. I just want to make sure parents realize that spanking is not abuse, it is an act of discipline. What about older kids? I would say that spanking loses its gusto after the age of about 15, but that does not mean that discipline still can’t happen just because they are older. Take away phones, computers, or hanging out with friends.

In conclusion, it is hard sometimes to carry out discipline, because we don’t want to see our kids in pain. If I can be honest for a second, there are moments after I discipline our girls that I have to go be by myself for a few minutes because personally I don’t want anyone to hurt my girls and I was the one who put them in that pain. Then I have to remind myself that the pain goes away and that this is training them for that peaceful fruit of righteousness. Be unified together in this, parents. Do not try to do your own thing without talking to your spouse about it first, especially when it comes to disciplining your children. Next month I will be talking about the importance of being united in parenting. Thank you for taking the time to read my article and if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has one for you.

Blessings,
Josh



Dad Jokes With Josh:

Did you know there are only 25 letters in the alphabet during Christmas?

There’s Noel.



2023 Recap

In this Christmas season, as we look back on 2023, we are grateful to God for many blessings and answered prayers.

As we shared with many of our supporting churches, we have seen God at work in the following ways in our ministry:

- In our many interactions with students inside and outside of the classroom. Teaching is rewarding, but it was also nice to bond with students in less formal settings like off-campus trips, fellowships, and tea time with casual conversations.
- In our relationships with Christian colleagues at St Paul's. As the faculty and staff of St Paul's University have grown over the years, many well-qualified people have been added. These talented Kenyan Christians also serve here with dedication.
- In our student's lives after graduation. It is always rewarding to see how our students go out to serve God and humanity. For example, one of Jane's students is counseling men in his area struggling with alcoholism, and one of Rowland's students is serving as a youth pastor. Many lives are being touched and the love of God is expressed through these and other students.
- In the churches and fellowship groups we are a part of. The Reformed Church of East Africa added new congregations and ordained more men and women. Jane's spiritual formation group added more Kenyan women wanting to be mentored.
- In the good connections we made as we traveled and visited over half of our 19 supporting churches. Your prayers, concern, and care for us were encouraging. It was also inspiring to see and hear about the work churches are doing locally and globally.

As we look ahead to 2024, we covet prayers for the following issues and concerns:

- For the Kenyan economy to improve so that students can find good jobs and pay back their student loans so that the government can afford to offer more financial aid.
- For the Kenyan weather so that parents and families of our students can grow more crops and afford to pay their portion of university tuition, room, and board.
- For us and our Kenyan colleagues working and teaching at St Paul's. Pray that we have the time and energy to form meaningful relationships with our entering students.





What Is Love Word Search



L N U M Z C S T P A P R Z H Q U F H S O
 N N H I A O E O I L F E C P A O T E P L
 L I I N Y R V K H M R F N R N L R V L D
 N O I T O V E D S T T O E D S E E I U B
 P U O A M D I X D I D R N C V T W Q N R
 P J D O G N L F N O O E U E T D W S F Q
 S E N D U R E S E S S N S S O I T U A U
 Z S M W E A B Y I S X R Z O T C O M I I
 Z T E Z Q P J T R K E J G L J S J N L G
 I F U N I B C B F P A Q O Q V S Y Z I I
 T Y I Y D P X H P Z Z V V B R R L M N Z
 S R Z F C N N G N Y E U H G R J N S G Q
 K O A F R W I S J M Y K Y H D E V Z G P
 K B Y E V X I K H V H K O P G V P X L D
 Z Y C L H V M O A O G O H D L I C L O F
 H C W M H T K E V P T U M E J B O T T X
 O F K F T H E P U R P N P U A M E T J W
 P D X V V I G E N Y T V G L I L U A H N
 E X A K E G M Z W S X U L H Q L Z P H Z
 S L H B G T D S D S U N P R O V O K E D

Hopes

Kindness

Love

Perseveres

Sweetheart

Trusts

Unfailing

Affection

Believes

Devotion

Endures

Fondness

Friendship

Goodwill

For God

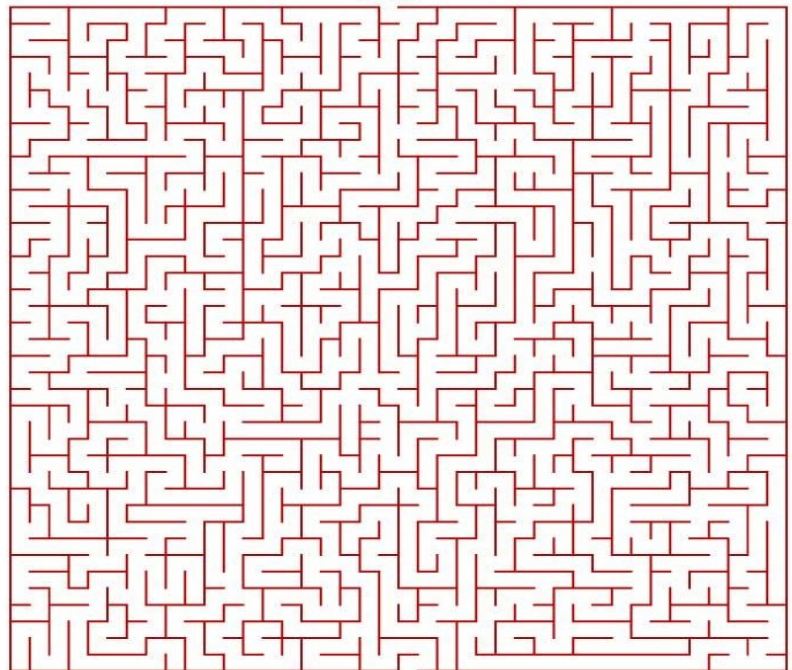


So **v**loved the world
 th**a**t he gave his
 on**l**y
 be**e**gotten
 so**n**
 th**t** that whosoever
 beli**i**eves
 i**n** him should
 not pe**r**ish but have
 ever**e**lasting life



John 3:16

Start



Finish