



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

I have always wondered at those old preachers who chose a single verse for their sermon text. I wondered if that was just an excuse to preach a favorite theme, a jumping off spot for their passions. Today's one verse, however, also raises an interesting thought: how much of the Old Testament (and the New Testament!) do we pass over without a single thought?

How many of the judges of Israel can you name, for instance? If you look them up, are there names which surprise you? Can you even find the book of Judges? The "historical books" of the Old Testament follow a formula for evaluating leaders which we may find repetitious and dull, easy to dismiss.

Most mainline Protestants are pretty Biblically illiterate. While knowing lots of verses is certainly good, without reflection on them, they become nearly useless. Listening to a preacher once auction off scripture verses one after another for half an hour was not inspiring; yet sometimes that seems to be what we do with our knowledge.

And we need to know the Old Testament if we want to be able to understand Jesus' ministry and the world he lived in. This is why we urge everyone to take Disciple studies! That year-long process of reflection begins to put the pieces of our faith in order. It is learning a new culture, how the people Jesus spoke to lived and thought.

— Dr. John Clifford, Retired Clergy-in-Residence

**Consider
the Source
Judges 3:31**

A Family Affair

Summer is here! Will you travel with your family this summer? Are you going to camp? How will you stay connected with your friends? And your church? How will you stay in touch with God?

Summer is going to be exciting at First Church. Our elementary Sunday school is studying Acts and completing a fun mission each week. We hope you will come to learn how you can help spread God's message of love. Later in the summer, we will have a fun study of teamwork with sports.

Vacation Bible School is a huge event at First Church! In **Shipwrecked VBS**, we will learn how Jesus' love rescues us. Another focus of VBS is God Sightings. An act of kindness could be a God Sighting. All summer you can create your own God Sightings by doing something for someone else. Pick up a June Mission Calendar in the Sunday School hallway. You can make it a mission to do something kind for someone else during your family's daily routine this summer.

You can also check the Sunday School hallway for a hands-on mission to complete. Have you spied any paper hearts around our church campus or town this week?

Dear God, we thank you for this school year and for the start of a new summer! Please help us to feel your presence as you walk with us daily and to recognize your work in our lives. Amen.

—Children's Ministry

Monday:

Rather than give a scripture passage to look at today, look at the front of your Bible at the "table of contents." Look at the list of 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books which make the Bible.

- How many could you describe the contents of? Which ones, and why?

Tuesday:

The first five books are called "Torah" – "law". They are the foundation for Jewish life and traditions.

- Read a few verses from the first chapter of each one. Can you get an idea of what each is about?
- Why would what we consider a "spiritual book" contain "law"?

Wednesday:

The Psalms may be the most familiar portion of the Old Testament. They are considered "wisdom literature."

- Can you identify other books considered "wisdom" as well?
- Do we pay attention to the wisdom we hear?

Thursday:

The Prophets are among the later Old Testament books, dealing with dilemmas Israel faced. The prophets had definite ideas about changes the people needed to make!

- Read Micah 6:6-8 (it may be challenging to find this!)
- What reminders do we need about what God desires from us?

Friday:

Following the Torah is a section of "history" — the conclusion of the Exodus experience, creating a nation, and descriptions of the deeds of leaders and kings for several centuries. Shamgar's episode is here.

- Identify the historical books.
- Why is it still important to report on history? What lessons might the past hold for us?

June is Mission Month...on Deck June 10

Footprints Children's Grief Ministry
Sunday Morning Greeters
Disaster Response Team
Heart to Heart Quilters
Education Connection
Round Rock Helpers
First Church Crafters
and the Parking Posse.

THE VILLAGES
A COMMUNITY OF FIRST CHURCH OF THE SOUTHWEST
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