



First Edition

February 2017



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

God's Word Teaches - Again and Again!

By Pastor Marc Heinz

It never ceases to amaze me how God's Word speaks afresh each day! Whether I have read a passage ten times, or a hundred times, each time I read God's Word, I learn something new that I need to apply to my life. God's Word is so timeless and it is such a precious gift! The Word of God provides us with instruction, guidance, and insight as to how, we as Christians are to live, in this fallen, broken world.

Recently during my devotions I learned, or more accurately I relearned that God is not only concerned about the choices and decisions His people make. But He is also very concerned as to how we go about making those decisions. For example in Joshua 24 the Israelites were told to choose whether they would serve God or idols. Throughout the book of Proverbs we are told that we must choose whether we will follow God or the world and its ways.

As I read Jeremiah, I was struck by just how many tragic stories there are in the Bible. One reads again and again of people who could have been or done so much more if only they had obeyed God and walked faithfully with Him. But for me, none of those stories I have read this year are more tragic than the story of Lot and his family. Lot's life is an example of how enjoying the "pleasures of sin for a season" can cause us to lose what really is important.

In Genesis 19:1-29 we read: "Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. And he said, 'Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into

your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.' They said however, 'No, but we shall spend the night in the square.' Yet he urged them strongly, so they turned aside to him and entered his house; and he prepared a feast for them, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; and they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.' But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him, and said, 'Please, my brothers, do not act wickedly. Now behold, I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men, inasmuch as they have come under the shelter of my roof.'

"But they said, 'Stand aside.' Furthermore, they said, 'This one came in as an alien, and already he is acting like a judge; now we will treat you worse than them.' So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door. But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway. Then the two men said to Lot, 'Whom else have you here? A son-in-law, and your sons, and your daughters, and whomever you

have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the LORD that the LORD has sent us to destroy it.' Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, 'Up, get out of this place, for the LORD will destroy the city.' But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

*"When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, 'Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city.' But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his two daughters, for the compassion of the LORD was upon him; and they brought him out, and put him outside the city. When they had brought them outside, one said, 'Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.' But Lot said to them, 'Oh no, my lords! Now behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have magnified your lovingkindness, which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, for the disaster will overtake me and I will die; now behold, this town is near enough to flee to, and it is small. Please, let me escape there (is it not small?) that my life may be saved.' He said to him, 'Behold, I grant you this request also, not to overthrow the town of which you have spoken.' Hurry, escape there, for I cannot do anything until you arrive there.' Therefore the name of the town was
(Continued on next page.)*

(Continued from page 1)
called Zoar.

"The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife, from behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

"Now Abraham arose early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the LORD; and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the valley, and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land ascended like the smoke of a furnace. Thus it came about, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot lived."

It is obvious Lot lived in a city that was extremely wicked and evil. That wickedness is clearly illustrated by the desire of the men of the city to forcibly "have relations" i.e. rape, Lot's visitors. This situation sealed the fate of the city. Although Lot was not an evil man, he was someone who did make some very poor decisions. Now the choice to live in Sodom may not have seemed bad initially. However when the hour of crisis came, we see that Lot's whole family was affected and influenced by the society in which they lived. Lot was warned of the approach of Sodom's ruin and he was directed to warn his friends and relatives so they could be saved with him. Tragically, his son-in-laws mocked him

because they thought he was joking. Apparently even Lot's judgment had been tainted by the society around him. In fact he stooped so low as to offer his two daughters to the evil men who came to the door to have relations with the two angels, saying: "do to them whatever you like."

Lot's choice to take his family into Sodom meant leaving his uncle Abraham. Up to that point in time, Lot had frequent fellowship with Abraham, which meant he had godly influences around him. But moving to Sodom removed him and his family from that godly, positive influence. Lot needed that godly influence to remain strong, and to help his family continue to grow in the Lord. And just like Lot, we need close fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ so that we can gain strength from one another as we live in a world tainted by sin and wickedness. Sadly, Lot chose doing his own thing, social standing, success, wealth, and the comforts of living in a sinful city, over living with those who feared and worshiped Almighty God. He could have lived nearer to Abraham,;he could have moved to a less wicked area; however, he chose to live in Sodom.

We too, face challenging decisions on a regular basis. So let me ask, as you face those challenges and decisions, what is your #1 priority? What is the basis for the choices and decisions you make? Is it God and His Word, or is it something else? When you are facing tough decisions, where do you place the focus, the emphasis? Is the focus on God and doing His will, is it on His Lordship, or is it on what you want or think is best? What are you pursuing - earthly

or heavenly goals?

You know Lot did have an opportunity to leave Sodom, long before this event ever took place. When the powerful "kings of the east" had carried him away as a captive, Abraham came to the rescue. And at that point in time, Lot could have said that it was time to do something different. But he didn't, and as a result he had to be taken by the hand out of Sodom. God showed His mercy to Lot by saving him from the impending destruction, but the story didn't end there.

Lot's wife made an effort to escape the impending disaster, but her curiosity, her love of things, and her love for family caused her to disobey God's orders and she looked back. This was a fatal error. And her story, stands as a warning for us today regarding the tragic consequences of disobeying God, loving the things of this world and choosing to have someone or something other than God as the center of our lives.

I believe each of us needs to ask: what is it that I place the highest value in and on? Am I seeking after the things of this world and its comforts? Or am I honestly seeking after God with everything that I have got? Is Christ truly the center of my life and my existence? Is He everything to me? Is there anything I wouldn't do for my Lord and Savior? Whose plan and ways am I following? God's or my own?

My friends, the lesson is to be warned, disobedience and defiance come at a high price! Bottom line, love of the world and love of God is simply not compatible.



This choir of special people will be with us Sunday, February 5th. This would be a great event to invite families with youth to be here. Fellowship Breakfast at 8:45 a.m. Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.



Starting 2017 going DEEPER!!!

By Doug Andrews

This January we did something we've never done in our Youth Ministry. We took our winter retreat early during Christmas break and at the beginning of the New Year!!! It was amazing!!! We spent three days in the mountains growing deeper in our friendships with one another, our knowledge of God, our worship of Him, and our individual relationships with Him. We had the privilege of being in the beautiful Sierras at a great mountain cabin generously donated so we could keep costs affordable.

We got to play in the snow one day and then visit Moaning Cavern Adventure Park the next day. There we were able to go cave exploring, ziplining, and rappelling down a 165-foot cavern. It was an amazing experience for everyone. God taught us to rely on Him in the face of things that frightened us all.

Over six meetings during the three days together we studied the book of 1 John. We learned that God is light and God is love, and if we are to truly call ourselves believers and followers of God, we too must walk in His light and love as He does; otherwise we are not sincere and the truth is not in us, in other words we are liars. It was God's plan for us to spend extended time in prayer, devotions, and study of His word and to teach students how to connect with God on their own and then give them the time and space to encounter Him.

In the midst of this time we spent time in worship and prayer together which was powerful and transforming. Students openly praised the Lord, prayed for one another, and experienced worshipping Jesus in new and freeing ways. God broke through in some amazing ways and we were all changed. We can't wait to see all that He has for us in this New Year going forward. Please continue to pray for our youth and I encourage you to reach out to them and say "Hi" when you see them here at church.

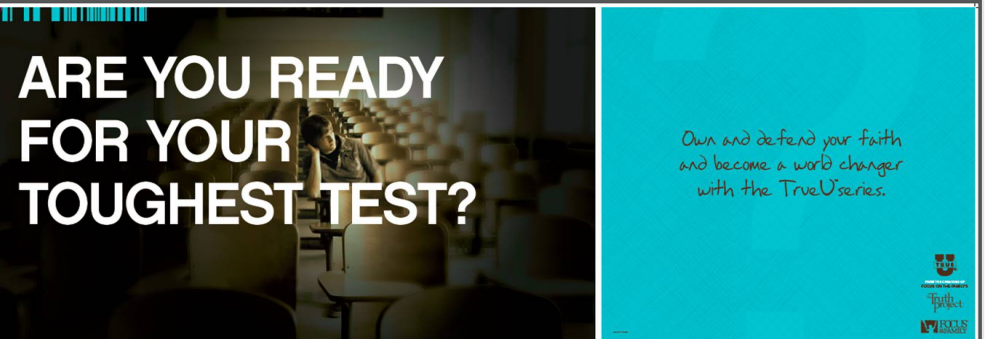


ski trip

**President's Day Trip –
Sunday PM - Monday, Feb 19-20**
Cost: \$60 - \$120
(Customized to your needs)


The snow this year is EPIC!
Don't miss out as we go together. If you are experienced or a beginner we have a plan for you.
Sign-up NOW!!!

Sunday College/Career Study and Fellowship
Sundays after church... Starts Feb 26



ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR TOUGHEST TEST?

Own and defend your faith and become a world changer with the TrueU series.



Do you have answers for the BIG Questions of life?
Are you ready for what you'll face out in the world or in college?
Come to this powerful study and GET READY!!!

We'll provide lunch and the materials for this study.



YOUTH

— Ministries —

PARENT MEETING

February 10 @ 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Come and fellowship with other parents, learn about what's happening and get support for you and your family!!!

Desserts and Coffee



Youth Events

Regular Meetings:

CAD-TNT (Jr. High/High School) - Tuesdays @ 7:15 - 9:00 pm
 Youth Service (Jr. high, High, and College) - Sundays @ 11:00am - 12:15pm
 College/Young Adult - Sunday @ 12:30 - 2:00pm

Upcoming Special Events:

**Presidents Day Youth Ski/Snowboard Trip -
 Sunday-Monday, February 19th - 20th,
 Cost TBA (\$60 - \$120; based on ski package)**

Come learn to ski/snowboard or get better as we take on the mountain. Last year, this fun and affordable one-day trip was a great day with surprisingly few crowds and great weather. The snow this year is EVEN BETTER!!! We'll leave after church on Sunday, Feb 19 and then Ski Monday, Feb 20th and come home. Join us as we head back to the Sierra's for more.

**Sunday College/Career Study and Fellowship - Sundays (12:30 - 2 pm)
 Starts February 26**

Calling all Young Adults!!! Do you have answers for the BIG Questions of life? Are you ready for what you'll face out in the working world or in college? Come to this powerful study and GET READY!!!

We'll provide lunch and the materials for this study.

**College Winter trip - Hume Lake Christian Camp
 Friday - Monday, March 10-12, \$195**

We're going back to Hume for an incredible weekend of great worship, speakers, and tons of fun in the snow. Tubing, snowboarding, broom hockey, games, activities for everyone! Come and bring a friend!!!

CAD/TNT Film Festival - March

Students work together to create their own movies/short stories. More info to come...

Hume Lake Summer Camp (Jr. High/High School) - June 18-24, 2017



An Old Hymn with Forever Truth

"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"

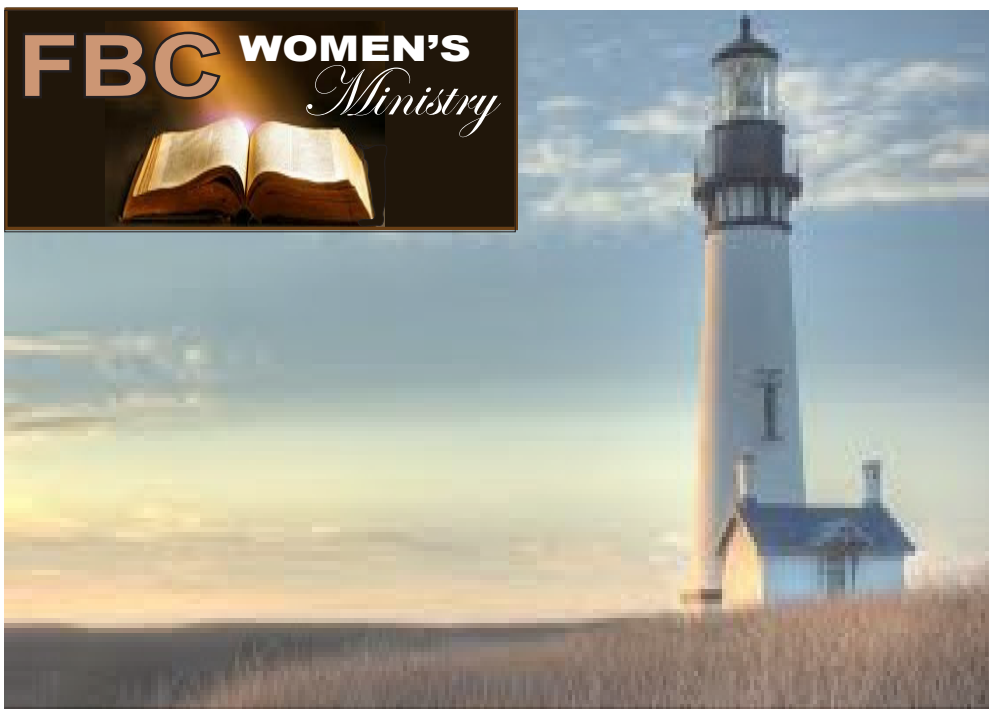
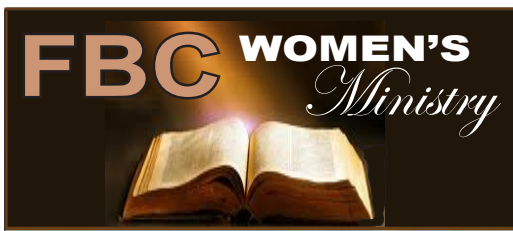
I don't know about tomorrow,
 I just live from day to day;
 I don't borrow from its sun-
 shine,
 For its skies may turn to gray,
 I don't worry o'er the future,
 For I know what Jesus said;
 And today I'll walk beside Him,
 For He knows what is ahead.

Chorus:

Many things about tomorrow
 I don't seem to understand;
 But I know who holds
 tomorrow,
 And I know who holds my
 hand.

Every step is getting brighter
 As the golden stairs I climb;
 Every burden's getting lighter,
 Every cloud is silver-lined
 There the sun is always
 shining
 There no tear will dim the eye;
 At the ending of the rainbow,
 Where the mountains touch
 the
 sky.

I don't know about tomorrow,
 It may bring me poverty;
 But the one who feeds the
 sparrow
 Is the one who stands by me.
 And the path that is my
 portion,
 May be through the flame or
 flood;
 But His presence goes before
 me,
 And I'm covered with His
 blood.



Women's Ministry Winter Event

Saturday, February 11, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FBC Chapel

Guest Speaker: Susan Neilsen

Substitute Teaching Leader at BSF

**“Psalm 119: Your Word Is a Lamp to
My Feet and a Light to My Path”**

Cost is \$10.00.

Tickets are available.

Deadline for reservations is Feb. 5th.

Women's Ministry Winter Event

**“Your Word is a Lamp to My
Feet and a Light to my Path”**

Psalm 119

**A time of fellowship,
worship and and teaching**

**Guest Speaker:
Susan Nielson**

from

Bible Study Fellowship

Susan has been involved with BSF for about 21 years. She has been a Substitute Teaching Leader for 13 years. Before that she was a Discussion Leader. She has lived in Foster City since she was married 32 years ago. She has a son, 25 and daughter, 23. Besides BSF, she has had a career in teaching in the public schools beginning in 1975. She has taught elementary school as well as Spanish for elementary and middle school students. Originally Susan was from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and she is a proud Pittsburgh Steeler Fan.

We have invited the ladies of Grace Bible Church to join us. However this event is open to all women. Please consider bringing a family member or friend.

Childcare Available

We will be offering childcare for children 3 years old and up who are potty trained. Brenda and Jose Corzantes and Tami Strang are putting together a program for the children that will reflect what we are learning from Susan. Skip Hoard will be on hand to help.

About Lunch

Lunch will be served. The cost is \$10.00. Tickets should be purchased ahead of time. The deadline is Feb 5th. Please see Sandy Murray or Sheryn Cockett for tickets after either service or on Wednesday nights.

To Whom it may concern:

Hello, my name is Mario DeCaro and I am a 55 year old Awana leader. I work with the T&T boys, (T&T stands for Truth in Training). The boys start the T&T group in the 3rd grade and then move out of the group after they graduate from the 6th grade, at which time they move into the next group which is called the Journey group. Journey is comprised of middle schoolers and high schoolers.

I started working with the AWANA program about 13 years ago. My involvement originated when some of the people from our church (Grace Bible in Redwood City) started taking my young daughters to the AWANA program, eventually these folks moved away from the area. So at that point, I started taking my daughters to the program. Initially I would just stay and watch them, but as time progressed I started volunteering. At first I was helper and would just listen to Bible verses and as time progressed I became more and more involved. Now here I am -- all these years later as a T&T leader and game director (yes, we play games at AWANA). Along with playing games, we

also memorize Bible verses, sing songs and listen to stories of great Christians.

When I first started in AWANA I had never heard of the program. I initially thought to myself, what a "weird name" for a program, and it was not until later that I found out that the name was an acronym for the Bible verse 2nd Timothy 2:15, "Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed". Today the AWANA program reaches children and youth in 104 countries with millions of adults who are alumni.

After working all these years with AWANA, I can confidently say that it is one of the greatest kids' programs around. It helps kids memorize God's word (Psalm 119:11 "*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against You*") and it tries to teach them to live for Jesus (Deuteronomy 11:18-19 "*You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise*").

And it teaches the children the importance of God's Word (Psalm 119:105: "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*"). All these things are truly wonderful for the children to learn.

This may come off a little selfish, but my favorite part of AWANA is story time. Story time comes at the end of the evening and we get to sit in a classroom and listen to stories of great Christians. The woman who shares these stories with us is extremely dedicated and a tremendous story teller. She makes her stories come alive, she makes the stories feel so real they are palpable. Her delivery and the way she tells the story is so captivating and engaging that it inspires those who are listening to want to live for Jesus. She is truly gifted by God.

In closing, I would like to encourage anyone who is reading this outline to visit an AWANA program for yourself. If you have never been to AWANA, I highly recommend your doing just that. Perhaps you can speak with Cathy or Ron Thomas and come visit sometime. Who knows, you may end up staying for 13 years!

God Bless,

BASS CHURCH WORKERS CONVENTION MARCH 3, 4, 5, 2016

BASS



March 2-4 5, 2017 at
Redwood Chapel Community Church
19300 Redwood Road, Castro Valley, CA

FBC has provided this opportunity free of charge to you.

More information coming soon.

FB



Consummate Man

Men's Breakfast
Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.
In the Chapel

ALL MEN
are welcome.



Feb. 1: Michael Geitner
Barbara Shelton
Feb. 17: David Shong
Feb. 18: Candace Heinz
Feb. 26: Ron Thomas
Feb. 28: Skip Hoard



Adult coed class, Sundays, 11:00am, Room 250
“Laws that Liberate - The Ten Commandments”
A study by Bill Hybels

Join our 11am Sunday school class in Room 250 to study a familiar holy ground in the Old Testament known as the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments have shaped the moral and legal systems of cultures and civilizations. They are a heaven-sent source of liberation. Bill Hybels, in his study guide, helps us hold God's commandments tightly so that we can live with peace in the Lord. Hybels' book, "Laws that Liberate" will be used in this six session study and are available at class time.



Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

The office staff will order your bouquet to be delivered -- so convenient, and so appreciated by your loved ones.


Special offerings for the month of February will go to Teen Challenge Choir.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Jude 24-25

February 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	2	3	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast
	SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship		8 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	9	10 7pm Parent Night	11 10am - 1pm Women's Ministry Winter Event
5 8:45am Breakfast 10:00am Combined Service with Teen Challenge Choir	6	7 7pm FBC Youth	15 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	16 12:30pm College/ Career Fellowship	17	18
12 12:30pm Children's Ministry Meeting	13	14 7pm FBC Youth	22 5pm Youth Band Reh. 6:30 pm Study in John 6:30 pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	23	24	25
19 youth Ski Trip ↑	20  Church Office Closed	21 7pm FBC Youth				
26	27	28 7pm FBC Youth				
All Events Are Subject to Change.						



First Baptist Church
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
 San Mateo, California 94403

Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

February

Wed.	1	Leviticus 7-9
Thurs	2	Leviticus 10-12
Fri.	3	Leviticus 13-15
Sat.	4	Leviticus 16-18
Sun.	5	Leviticus 19-21
Mon.	6	Leviticus 22-24
Tues.	7	Leviticus 25-27
Wed.	8	Numbers 1-3
Thurs.	9	Numbers 4-6
Fri.	10	Numbers 7-9
Sat.	11	Numbers 10-12
Sun.	12	Numbers 13-15
Mon.	13	Numbers 16-18
Tues.	14	Numbers 19-21
Wed.	15	Numbers 22-24
Thurs.	16	Numbers 25-27
Fri.	17	Numbers 28-30
Sat.	18	Numbers 31-33
Sun.	19	Numbers 34-36
Mon.	20	Deuteronomy 1-3
Tues.	21	Deuteronomy 4-6
Wed.	22	Deuteronomy 7-9
Thurs.	23	Deuteronomy 10-12
Fri.	24	Deuteronomy 13-15
Sat.	25	Deuteronomy 16-18
Sun.	26	Deuteronomy 19-21
Mon.	27	Deuteronomy 22-24
Tues.	28	Deuteronomy 25-27



Movie Night
Friday,
Feb. 24th
6:30 p.m.

Popcorn, Hot dogs and drinks are provided.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Movie will begin at 7pm.
ALL are welcome.

15 years ago, Ben Walker left his girlfriend and his ministry calling for a business opportunity. Now with a high-paying career and a trophy fiancé, he is visited by an angel, who gives him a glimpse into what his life would look like had he followed his calling.