

Lessons from the Wilderness



“O God, you are my God; earnestly
I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.”

Psalm 63:1



Responsive Call To Worship

From Psalm 63 (ESV)

Leader: “Oh God, you are my God;
earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you;

Women: my flesh faints for you, as in a dry
and weary land where there is no water.

Men: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Women: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Men: So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

Women: My soul will be satisfied as
with fat and rich food, and my mouth
will praise you with joyful lips,

Men: when I remember you upon
my bed, and meditate on you in the
watches of the night;

Women: for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings
I will sing for joy.

All: My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.”



At The Cross

Isaac Watts, Ralph E. Hudson

Alas, and did my Savior bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done,
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away.
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For man the creature's sin.

At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away.
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give my-self away
'Tis all that I can do.

At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away.
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

(repeat)

“At the Cross”: Words by Isaac Watts, 1707 / Music by Ralph E. Hudson, 1885

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Still Standing

Israel Houghton

You gave me courage to believe
That all Your goodness I would see
And if it had not been for You
Standing by my side, where would I be?

If not for Your goodness, if not for Your grace
I don't know where I would be today
If not for Your kindness, I never could say
I'm still standing...

If not for Your mercy, if not for Your love
I most likely would have given up
If not for Your favor, I never could say
I'm still standing...
But by the grace of God!

To You I lift my offering
And set my heart on higher things
For if it had not been for You
Standing by my side, where would I be?

If not for Your goodness, if not for Your grace
I don't know where I would be today
If not for Your kindness, I never could say
I'm still standing...

If not for Your mercy, if not for Your love
I most likely would have given up
If not for Your favor, I never could say
I'm still standing...
But by the grace of God!

I'm still standing
I'm still standing
I'm still standing
But by the grace of God!

(repeat)

If not for Your goodness, if not for Your grace
I don't know where I would be today
If not for Your kindness, I never could say
I'm still standing...

If not for Your mercy, if not for Your love
I most likely would have given up
If not for Your favor, I never could say
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I'm still standing...

If not for Your mercy, if not for Your love
I most likely would have given up
If not for Your favor, I never could say
I'm still standing...

I'm still standing...
I'm still standing...
But by the grace of God!

“Still Standing” by Cindy Cruse Ratcliff and Israel Houghton
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The Word Made Flesh

Kelly Zephir, James Quinn

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation;
Word that came from heaven to die,
Crucified for our salvation.

Word Almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

We praise the One who was foretold,
The Son of God, the Holy One,
The Spotless lamb; our eyes upon the tree
Where He bled and died and rose again
For me, for me...
The Word made flesh for me.

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heaven descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth,
Faith and hope and love unending.
Saving Word, the world restoring;
Speak to us, your love outpouring.

We praise the One who was foretold,
The Son of God, the Holy One,
The Spotless lamb; our eyes upon the tree
Where He bled and died and rose again
For me, for me...
The Word made flesh for me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah

Hallelujah, hallelujah

(repeat)

We praise the One who was foretold,
The Son of God, the Holy One,
The Spotless Lamb;
Our eyes upon the tree
Where He bled and died and rose again.

(repeat)

For me, for me...
The Word made flesh for me.

(repeat)

“The Word Made Flesh” by Kellie Zephir and James Quinn
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Confession of Sin

Holy Father, you see us as we are,
and know our inmost thoughts.

We confess that we are unworthy of
your gracious care. We forget that
all life comes from you and that to you
all life returns. We have not sought to
do your will with our whole hearts.

We have not lived as grateful children,
nor loved as Christ loved us.
Apart from you, we are nothing.
Only your grace can sustain us.
Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us,
and make us whole. Set us free from
our sin, and restore us to the joy of
your salvation now and forever. Amen.

Silent time of personal confession



You Alone

Arkansas Gospel Mass Choir

I worship you alone;
Blessed Savior, My God.
From the depths of my heart,
I'll give all praise and honor
To you, oh matchless king.

(repeat)

There is no one like you
In all the earth;
I'll praise and magnify your name.

(repeat)

Oh Lord, I worship you alone.

You sit on the throne;

I worship, I worship you alone.

In spirit and in truth,

I do worship you;

I worship, I worship you alone.

You are my passion;
My creator, my God.
To the ends of the earth,
I'll forever give you glory
To you and you alone.

There is no one like you
In all the earth;
I'll praise and magnify your name.

(repeat)

Oh Lord, I worship you alone.

You sit on the throne;

I worship, I worship you alone.

In spirit and in truth,

I do worship you;

I worship, I worship you alone.

Oh, oh, oh, oh...

(repeat)

You alone, you alone...

(repeat)

Oh Lord, I worship you alone.
You sit on the throne;
I worship, I worship you alone.
In spirit and in truth,
I do worship you;
I worship, I worship you alone.



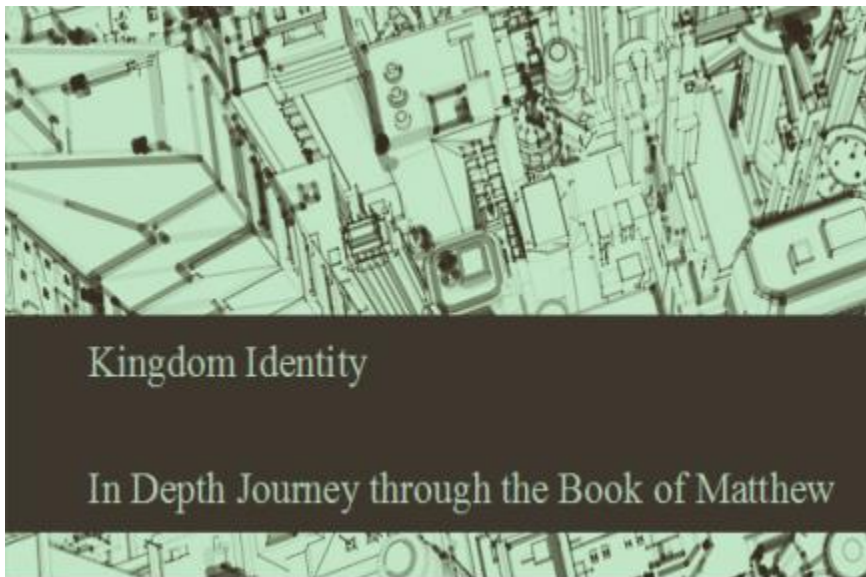
Connections

New to FCF? We are here to help.
Please fill out a Connections Card
and visit us at the Connections Desk
after the service.

Two Classes in April

Kingdom Identity

The King,
His Kingdom,
and His Kingdom-Keepers

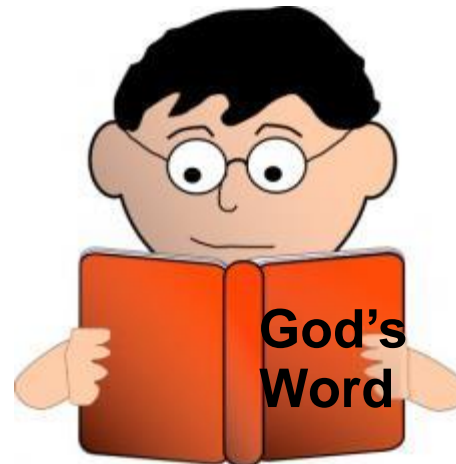


...In the Parlor

*...But We have the
Mind of Christ*

Value the Things that Christ Values

- ◆ A Heart for Compassion
- ◆ Humble and Obedient
- ◆ Seeking the Lost
- ◆ Dependence on God and for God's Glory



...In Fellowship Hall



Men's Retreat

May 18 - 20

**Following Christ
in a CRAZY world:
Paul's 2nd Journey
thru Greece**

Sign up Now! Go to our church website

**And while you are on MyFCF,
join the group "Men of Faith"**





Talk to Gerry Sütter re: scholarships

\$110 - Adult

\$35 - Youth



Wednesday (4/18) is our deadline for signing up



Coming THIS Friday April 20

Women's Bible Study

- meets 1st & 3rd Fridays each month -

NOW FEATURING:

☞ **Philippians 3** ☛

FCF Parlor 7:30 PM

Free to all women 19-90!!!

SUMMER@FAITH

Join us for another fun summer of reading, arts, and exploring God's Word!

SAVE THE DATES

June 19-August 2, 2018, 6:30-8:30pm

Tuesdays – Bible Camp

Wednesdays – PLANarts

Thursdays – Reading Club

Registration & Volunteer
Sign Up starts next week!
Stay tuned for more info!





**Metro Baltimore Seminary
Exploration Luncheon Discussion Meeting
April 22 (next Sunday) after 11:00 Service**

Prayer Intercessors Available in the Prayer Room after the service

Do you have a need and want to pray with someone?

The prayer team would love to pray for and with you!

Members of the team are available for 15 minutes after each service in the Prayer Room right behind the connections desk each Sunday.



Scripture Reading

Hebrews 12:1-11

“12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ 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.”

Faith Christian Fellowship
Pulpit Search Committee (PSC)

Bill Bolling, *Chair*

Emily Sippel, *Co-Chair – Secretary*

Eric Chin

Weldon Newton

Laura Clark

Dan Obeng

Dan Ellis

Wendy Pitts

Ananda Kumar

Kim Sütter

Ann Maouyo

Kellie Zephir

Morning Has Broken

Arranged by Grant Adams

Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.

Lessons from the Wilderness





Deuteronomy 8:1-10

8 “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.

² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

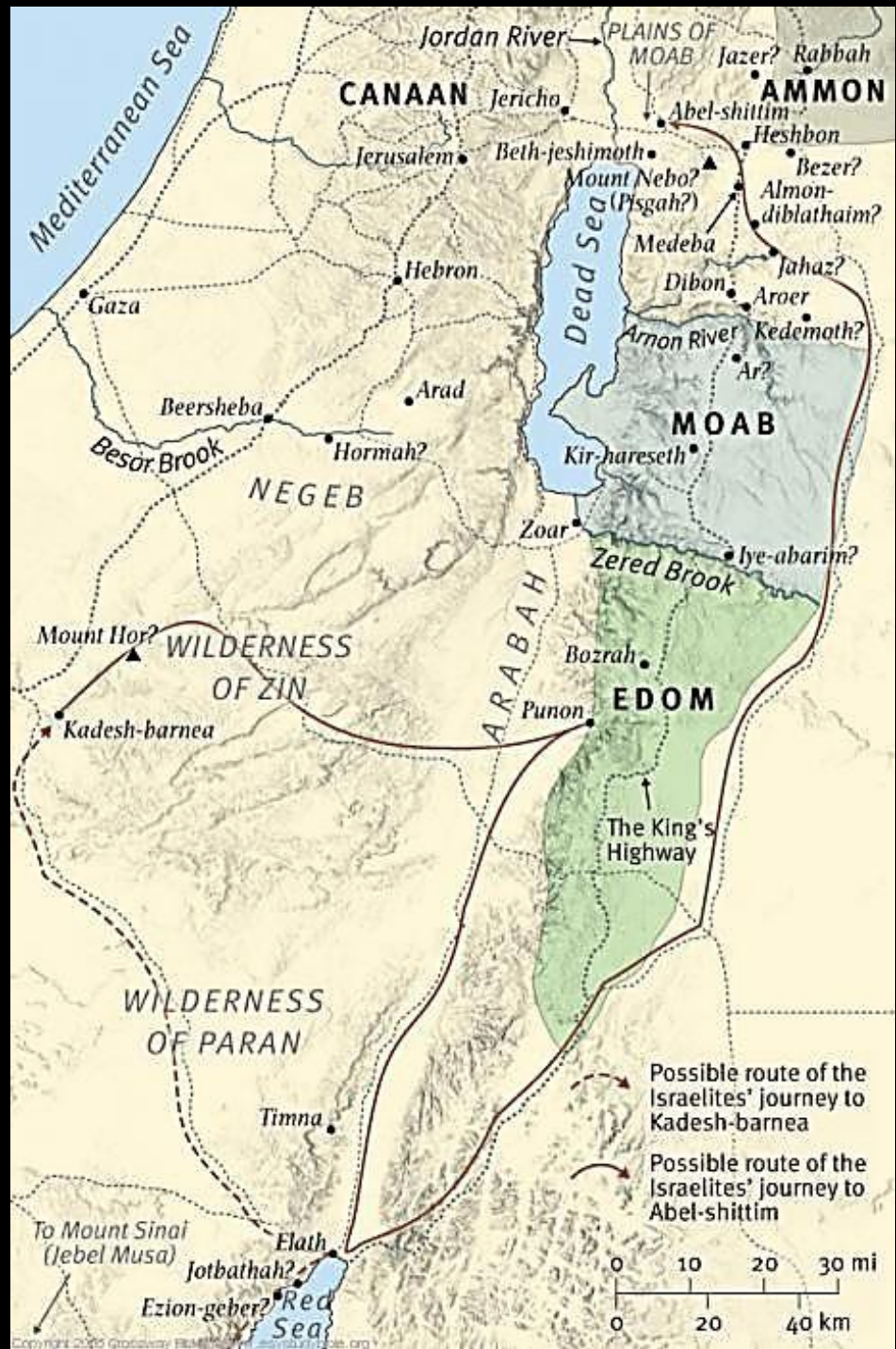
⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills,

⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.





**God calls His people to remembrance
in the advancement of His mission
in the world.**

- **His Word**
- **His Leadership**
- **His Love.**

Possible feelings the Israelites might be having during this period of anticipation and transition:

- **Fear / Confusion**
- **Loss of key leader / Grief in that loss**
- **Impatience – not knowing**
- **Regret about parents**
- **Comfortable staying in camp**
- **Dealing with unknown**
- **Legends about giants in the land**
- **Needing to learn**
- **Doubt – can they do it**
- **Excitement about new things**
- **Trust God in new ways**

Feelings people at FCF might be experiencing during our time of anticipation and transition?

- **Fear / Doubt**
- **Impatience during God's timeframe**
- **Excitement**
- **Grief**
- **What will change? / Will I like the change?**
- **Uncertainty / Confusion**
- **Coping**
- **Hope**
- **Regret**
- **Doing God's will provides peace**

1981 ICVF Urban Project





“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayana

1) His Word

“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.”

Vs 1



“Because I am Christian. Therefore, every day in which I do not penetrate more deeply into the knowledge of God’s Word in Holy Scripture is a lost day for me.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THE NONVIOLENCE ETHIC

I hereby pledge myself, my person and body to the nonviolent movement. Therefore, I will keep the following ten commandments:

1. Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.
2. Remember always that the nonviolent movement in Birmingham seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory.
3. Walk and talk in the manner of love, for God is love.
4. Pray daily to be used by God in order that all men might be free.
5. Sacrifice personal wishes in order that all men might be free.
6. Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy.
7. Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world.
8. Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart.
9. Strive to be in good spiritual and bodily health.
10. Follow the directions of the movement and the captain on a demonstration.

I sign this pledge, having seriously considered what I do and with the determination and will to persevere.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matt 28:19, 20

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

Hebrews 10: 35, 36

2) His Leadership

“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.”

Vs 2

**The crucible for silver and
the furnace for gold, but the
LORD tests the heart.**

Proverbs 17:3

“To experience God in their history was not sufficient for the people; they had to be constantly reminded of that experience in order to overcome their anxieties which tended to blot out the memory.”

P.C. Craigie

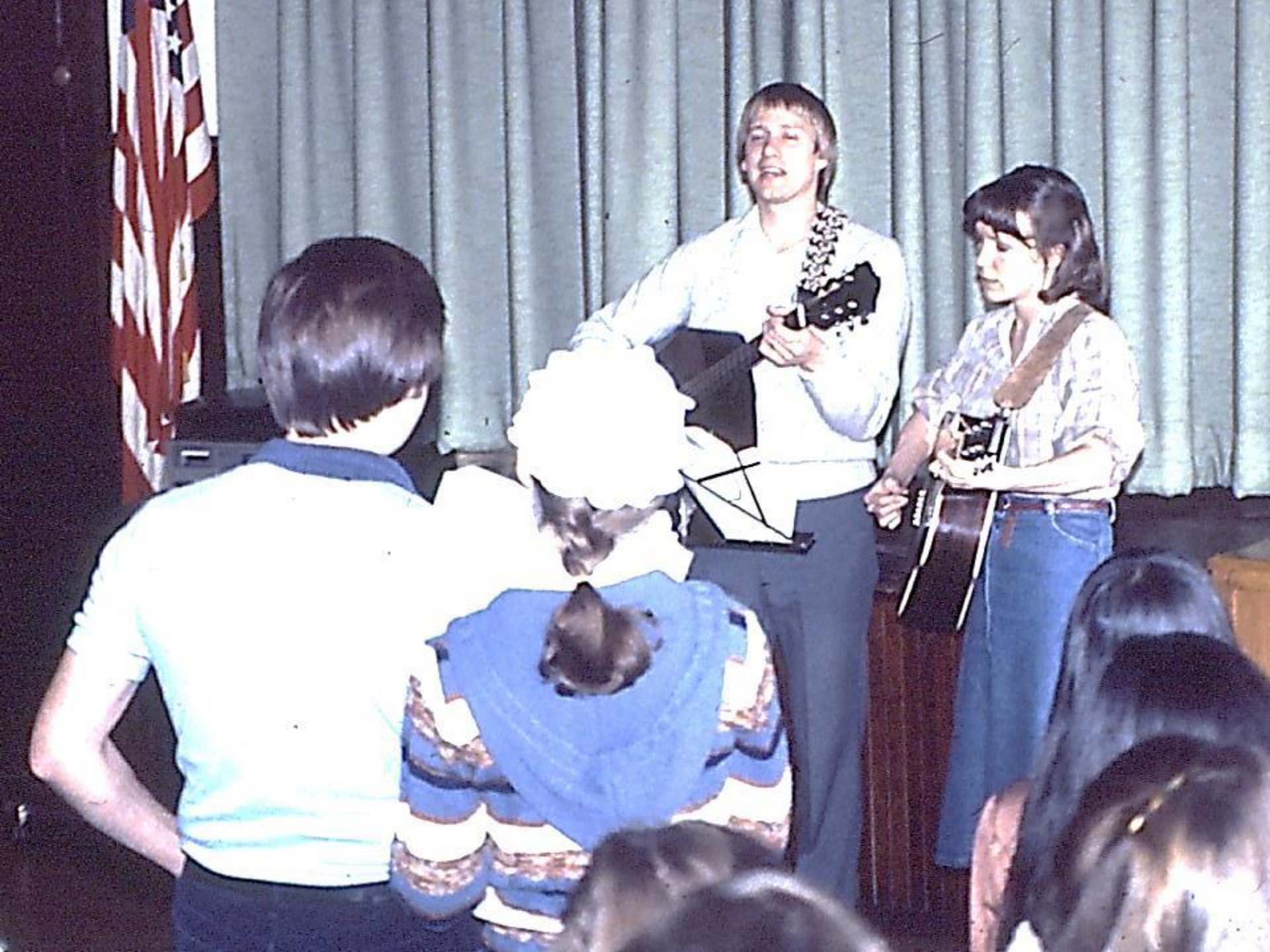


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FCF
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FCF Leadership Retreat Fall 2017



3) His Love

Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

Vs 5

“The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers ...”

Deut. 7:7,8

“For His love is never, never, never based on our performance, never conditioned by our moods — of elation or depression. The furious love of God knows no shadow of alteration or change. It is reliable. And always tender.

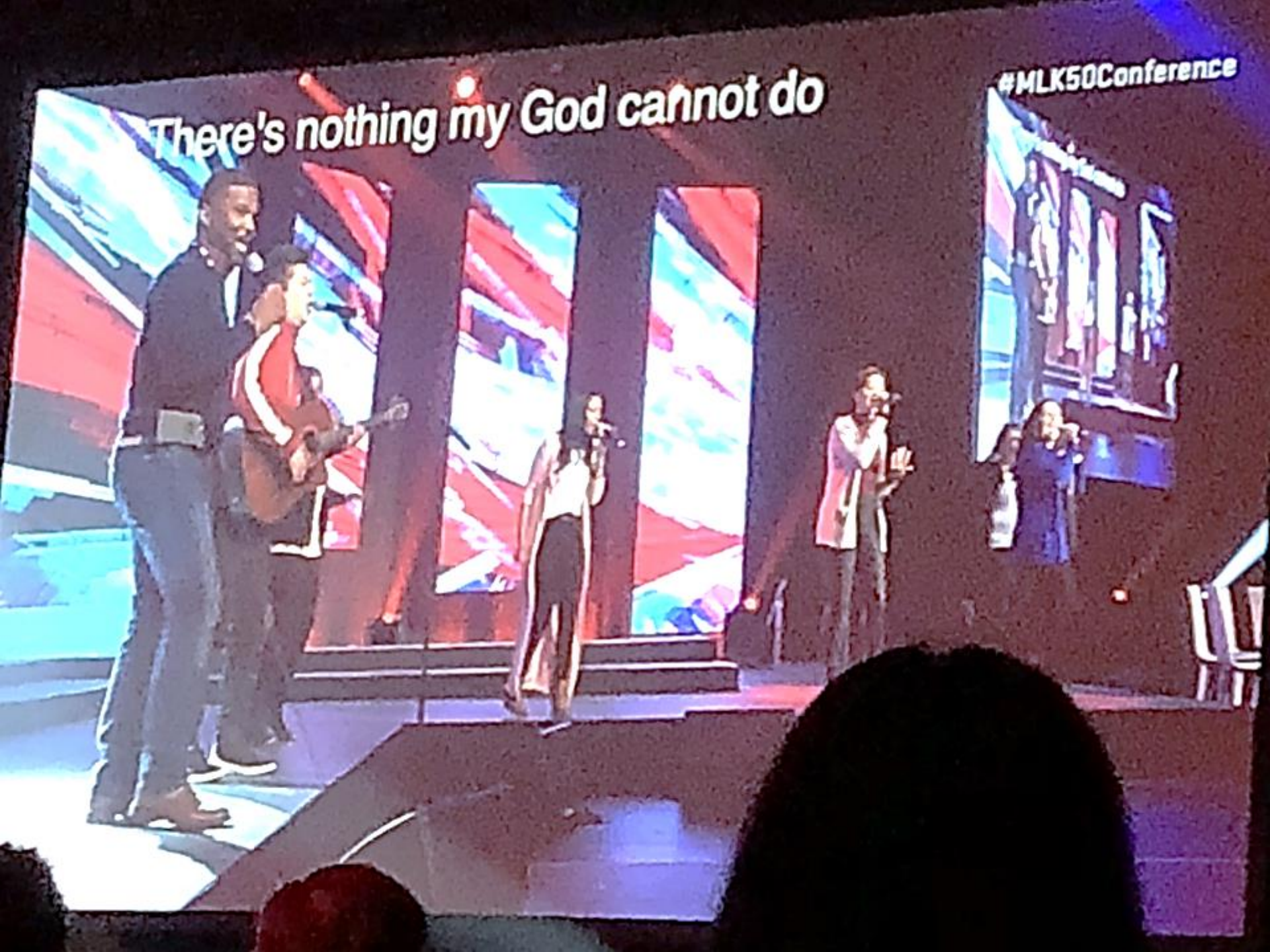
... I believe that Christianity happens when men and women experience the reckless, raging confidence that comes from knowing the God of Jesus Christ.”

**Brennan Manning,
*The Furious Longing of God***



There's nothing my God cannot do

#MLK50Conference



“Big”

My God is big; so strong, so mighty.

My God’s plans for me

Goes beyond my wildest dreams.

My God is good, so good to me.

He’s my God; He is my refuge.

He’s the rock from which I stand;

He’s my fortress, down to all my life.

He holds the oceans in his hands;

There’s nothing my God cannot do!



And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Exodus 13:21-22

You Alone

Arkansas Gospel Mass Choir

I worship you alone;
Blessed Savior, My God.
From the depths of my heart,
I'll give all praise and honor
To you, oh matchless king.
There is no one like you in all the earth;
I'll praise and magnify your name.

Oh Lord, I worship you alone.

You sit on the throne;

I worship, I worship you alone.

In spirit and in truth,

I do worship you;

I worship, I worship you alone.

Prayer Intercessors Available in the Prayer Room after the service

Do you have a need and want to pray with someone?
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“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 8:3