



GRAPPLE EVENT

@ Bowlway Lanes – Elgin

SUNDAY MAY 21 1:00-2:30 PM

Lunch will be provided

Bring \$10 for the bowling event

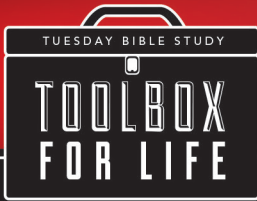


PASS IT ON...



Pass on the Hebrew blessing from **Numbers 6** to your family and friends. The blessing contains **"God's own words"** so that He can put his name on the person being blessed.

Cards are in the foyer.



BY RICK WARREN

A FOUR-WEEK INTER-ACTIVE BIBLE STUDY

MEETS TUESDAYS @ 7:00 PM



BIBLE STUDY (Off Campus)

The following Bible study is scheduled at Kimberly's in MAY: Thursday, May 25. Let Kimberly know if you plan to attend.

ANNA

Our hearts are saddened as we say 'goodbye' to Anna. She has become a 'regular' at JCC. We will miss her as she makes her move to Wisconsin with her family. We wish her God's best!

CONNECTION CARD

in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.



The LORD BLESS You...

MAY TEACHING SERIES

- May 07 » A Hebrew Blessing
- May 14 » Mother's Day
- May 21 » The Lord Keeps Us
- May 28 » The Pursuit of Peace

PRAYER REQUESTS ▶ THINKING-OF-YOU PRAYER

Breanna V. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ralph H. ▶ Fluid in the brain	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noe F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kenny D. ▶ Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny L. ▶ Peace Corps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phyllis L. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

Michelle G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beth F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sara H. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glenn F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misty L. ▶ Headaches	<input type="checkbox"/>



▶ URGENT PRAYER

Barb S. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toni R. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peggy K. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emma G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam H. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul G. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed. Gearen ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

Judi Gearen ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gearen Family ▶ Drawn closer to God	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cindy ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stein Family ▶ Salvation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Danny R. ▶ ALS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy F. ▶ Kidney Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Only with time do we really learn who the other person is and come to love the person for him—or herself and not just the feelings and experiences they give us.” —*Timothy Keller*

05/14/17

38 ATTENDANCE \$422 GIVING 2 GUESTS
17 VOLUNTEERS 0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

METRICS ▶ THAT MATTER

The LORD BLESS You...

The Lord
Keeps Us

²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

GOD *desires* to bless you.
to bless through you.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN

"to keep"?

- It is not a one-time act of affection.
- It is not a flash in the pan.
- It is not young love.
- It is not sexy.
- It is hard work.
- It is commitment.
- It is loyalty.
- It is consistency.

Keep IS THE REAL DEAL!

— USING A "Gardener" ANALOGY —

1

A GARDENER

Protects

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. *Psalms 127:1*

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— *Jude 24*

- The gardener protects in every season.
- The gardener knows when it's time to weed.
- The gardener knows when it's time to fertilize.

2

A GARDENER

Nourishes 

- In order to make beautiful flowers.
- In order to fill a bowl of fruit.
- In order to make a meal.
- In order to make a beautiful person.
- In order to fill a soul.
- In order to bring dust to life.



He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 1:8*

3

A GARDENER

Prunes AND Fertilizes 

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. *John 15:2*

- It's a painful process.
- It's enduring short-term pain for long-term growth.
- It's giving our short-term expectations to an eternal God.



➤ → God will not protect us from ←
 * What he will perfect us through. *

4

A GARDENER

Stays involved 
with the garden

- He gets in the soil and gets dirty.
- He never leaves the garden to fend for itself.
- In the mud—he is there.
- He is all about the garden.



³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:35-39*