

SAMARIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

# *Water of Life*

*"...the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." - John 4:14*

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**Vacation Bible Study 2009**

# *Fishing with the Master*

**July 13-17 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Classes For Ages 0 – Adult Will Study The Following Lessons:

**Be Fishers of Men  
Prepare to Share  
Go Fish the World  
Fish With Power  
Love the Fisher's Catch**

## WHY HAVE A VACATION BIBLE STUDY?

DAVID ELDRIDGE

Lord willing, our Vacation Bible Study will take place July 13-17. There are a multitude of reasons for a church to have a summer Bible series such as the one that we have planned for this month. Let us examine some of the valuable benefits of the Vacation Bible Study.

**A Vacation Bible Study Provides a Good Opportunity to Learn More about The Bible.** Though our young people are out of school for summer vacation, that should not mean that all learning stops. It is always important for them (and the adults) to continue in their spiritual education. A spiritual education is of far more value than any education a secular institution might offer. Your child's most valuable possession is their soul! Jesus asked, "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Matt. 16:26). We need to be raising children like Timothy who "*from childhood...have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*" (2 Tim. 3:15).

**A Vacation Bible Study Provides a Good Opportunity For Families to Talk about Spiritual Things.** One feature of this summer Bible series is that every class, from the youngest to the adults, will be studying the same subject, just on different levels. This is

designed to encourage families to be able to talk about what they have learned with one another. This benefits everyone! One cannot stress how important it is for families to talk about God's word together (cf. Deut. 6:6-7).

**A Vacation Bible Study Provides a Good Topic to Study.** The theme for this year's Vacation Bible Study is "Fishing with the Master." This series of lessons focuses upon the calling of Jesus: "*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men*" (Matt. 4:19). Each night will consist of profitable lessons emphasizing our need to spread the word.

*Monday: Be Fishers of Men*

*Tuesday: Prepare to Share*

*Wednesday: Go Fish the World*

*Thursday: Fish with Power*

*Friday: Love the Fisher's Catch*

These lessons will be of benefit to both the children and the adults!

**A Vacation Bible Study Provides a Good Time to Invite Others.** I have seen some who first came to a Vacation Bible Study and, as a result, began to attend regular periods of Bible study and worship. Our Vacation Bible Study is a tremendous opportunity to spread God's word, so be sure to invite everyone that you can!

Vacation Bible Study is a wonderful time of learning and encouragement. Young and old alike need to plan to be here every night!

## WHAT'S A PREACHER TO DO?

DAVID ELDRIDGE

Ask ten people and you might very well end up with ten different answers. However, the Bible details "*the work of an evangelist*" (2 Tim. 4:5). What's a preacher to do? We are taught that he is to...

**Preach the Word.** A preacher is divinely charged to "*Preach the word*" (2 Tim. 4:1-2). He must be "*ready to preach the gospel... for it is the power of God to salvation*" (Rom. 1:15-16). Some are preaching anything and everything but the word. We need preachers who can truthfully say, "*I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God*" (Ac. 20:27).

**Study the Word.** The evangelist Timothy was instructed to "*give attention to reading*" (1 Tim. 4:13). A preacher is not to read just anything, he is to "*Study...the word of truth*" (2 Tim. 2:15). If a preacher does not spend much time in study, he will bring about his destruction and the destruction of those who heed him (1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Pet. 3:16).

**Convert Sinners.** Jesus commanded, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...*" (Matt. 28:19). Some have forgotten that the mission of a preacher is to "*make disciples.*" Without a preacher, one will not hear, believe, and obey that they might be saved (Rom. 10:13-15). To the end of saving souls, a preacher needs to busy himself teaching both "*publicly and from house to house*" (Acts 20:20).

**Edify the Saints.** The Lord gave some to be "*evangelists...for the edifying of the body of Christ*" (Eph. 4:11-12). Some preachers are wreckers instead of builders. Yet, a godly preacher will work to build. He will emulate Paul who wrote, "*we do all things, beloved, for your edification*" (2 Cor. 12:19).

**Defend the Truth.** Timothy was to "*charge some that they teach no other doctrine*" (1 Tim. 1:3). Some are afraid to stand against error. Yet, a preacher must "*be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks*" that he might "*contend earnestly for the faith*" (1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3).

**Set an Example.** A preacher is to "*be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity*" (1 Tim. 4:12). He is, "*in all things,*" to show himself "*to be a pattern of good works*" (Tit. 2:7). Some preachers ruin any good they might do because of their poor example. Thus, a preacher must behave himself "*devoutly and justly and blamelessly*" (1 Thess. 2:10).

May a preacher ever be found doing these things, and may the brethren "*hold such men in esteem*" (Phil. 2:29).

(The last two weeks of July, I will be traveling to Indiana to teach in a class designed to assist men in better doing "*the work of an evangelist.*" The principles in this article are among those things which will be taught.)