# That's Just Your Interpretation



It's all too common for someone to point out something the Bible says and have somebody respond, "Well, that's just your interpretation," as if when it comes to what the Bible says there's nothing more than personal opinion. But is that true? Is interpreting the Bible just the reader's opinion, completely subjective, so that when it comes to the Bible it's a free-for-all? Believe what you want, read it how you wish, because it doesn't say anything definitive?

I'm afraid that's a cultural myth. There's an actual field of study for interpretation called *hermeneutics* defined as "the science of interpretation." And it is a science—a series of steps, practices, disciplines and rules that apply to interpretation.

But make no mistake—99% of the Bible doesn't take any heavy lifting in regard to interpretation. Here's some quick reading. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy it says, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (6:4, NIV). So is there one God or two? One! In the Old Testament book of Exodus it says, "You shall not steal" (20:15, NIV). Is it okay to steal or not? It's not! In the New Testament book of I Thessalonians it says, "... Jesus died and rose again" (4:14, NIV). Did Jesus die and rise again or not? The Bible says that He did. So is the Bible obscure in its meaning? No.

So why do so many claim that the Bible is difficult to understand? For some, it's not in trying to grasp the most obvious reading, but in accepting the *implications* of that reading. It's interesting how when you don't like something you read, you can suddenly find yourself having a hard time understanding.

Lee Strobel says to pretend that your daughter and her boyfriend are going out for a Coke on a school night. You say to her, "You must be home before 11." Now suppose it gets to be 10:45 and the two of them are still having a

great time. They don't want the evening to end, so suddenly they begin to have difficulty interpreting your instructions. They say: "What did he really mean when he said, 'You must be home before 11?' Did he literally mean us or was he talking about you in a general sense, like people in general? Was he saying, in effect, 'As a general rule, people must be home before 11?' Or was he just making the observation that generally, people are in their homes before 11? I mean, he wasn't very clear, was he?

"And what did he mean by, 'You *must* be home before 11?' Would a loving father be so adamant and inflexible? He probably meant it as a suggestion. I know he loves me, so isn't it implicit that he wants me to have a good time? And I am having fun, so he wouldn't want me to end the evening so soon.

"And what did he mean by, 'You must be home before 11?' He didn't specify whose home. It could be anybody's home. Maybe he meant it figuratively. Remember the old saying, 'Home is where the heart is?' My heart is right here, out having a Coke, so doesn't that mean I'm already home?

"And what did he really mean when he said, 'You must be home before 11?' Did he mean that in an exact, literal sense? Besides, he never specified 11 p.m. or 11 a.m. And he wasn't really clear on whether he was talking about Central Standard Time or Eastern Standard Time. I mean, it's still only quarter to seven in Honolulu. And as a matter of fact, when you think about it, it's always before 11. Whatever time it is, it's always before the next 11. So with all of these ambiguities, we can't really be sure what he meant at all. If he can't make himself clearer, we certainly can't be held responsible."

There's no doubt that some parts of the Bible are hard to understand. It reflects the places, histories, cultures and languages of places long ago and far away. Sometimes it helps to have some background information on those issues to get the best sense of it, and there are some passages that people might disagree about. But on the essential teachings and issues, the Bible leaves little room for confusion.

As Mark Twain was known to have quipped, "It's not the parts of the Bible I don't understand that disturb me, rather it's the parts of the Bible that I do understand that disturb me."

Think on that.

Blessings,

Pastor David

#### **DEVOTION**

## Spiritual R & R



#### Read Mark 1:35 (ESV)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

#### Reflect

How often do you spend time alone with God and why is it important?

Jesus kept a full schedule. During His years of ministry, He was often on His feet. He traveled around and taught huge crowds of people. Because He performed miracles and healed the sick, He was often sought after. In fact, in the verses that follow the above passage, Simon and the other disciples found Jesus while He was praying alone and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for you" (Mark 1:37). It had to have been exhausting. But Jesus modeled an important concept to us—setting aside time for rest and prayer.

Many of us are living life constantly on the go. We work hard and we play hard. Plus, most of us have many people who make demands on our time. Sometimes, it can feel like everyone is looking for us and everyone wants something from us. What are we supposed to do to keep from getting burnt out and overwhelmed? We need to follow Jesus' example, find a secluded place and spend some time alone with the Lord in prayer.

God knew we needed rest. But what kind of rest is best? In the Law, God said: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work" (Exodus 20:8-10). The Sabbath was a day for God's people to rest from their labor and to get refreshed and replenished. But more than that, it was meant to be a holy day. A day to focus on who God is and what He did for them. We are no longer under the law but the concept of setting aside time to rest

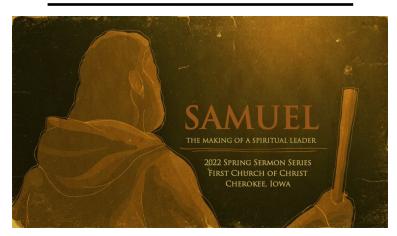
and focus on the Lord is still an important spiritual discipline.

If we spend all of our leisure time resting in the ways of the world, we might not be as tired as we were, but we will not be as refreshed as we could be. Whatever is streaming on TV is a poor substitute for the time we spend communing and fellowshipping with the Lord. It is time with Him that fills us up and allows us to pour into the lives of those around. He is the One who strengthens us and enables us to fulfill the purposes that He has for our lives

Friends, we are human beings. We get exhausted and weary. We need to take the time to rest. But more than just putting our feet up, we need to get in the Word and we need to talk to God. We encourage you to follow Jesus' example and find some time to go off by yourself and pray today. The spiritual R&R will refresh your soul.

#### **Pray**

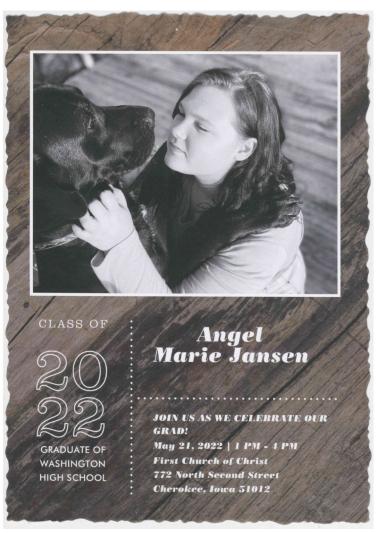
Lord, some days I am so exhausted and overwhelmed. But when I rest in You, it is so good for my soul. Thank You for refreshing my spirit and giving me the strength I need to face each day. Amen.



SAMUEL: THE MAKING OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

We often wonder about the childhoods of great people. We have little information about the early years of most of the people mentioned in the Bible. One delightful exception is Samuel; he came as a result of God's answer to Hannah's fervent prayer for a child. (In fact, the name *Samuel* comes from the Hebrew expression, 'heard of God.") God shaped Samuel from the start. Like Moses, Samuel was called to fill many different roles: judge, priest, prophet, counselor, and God's man at a turning point in the history of Israel. God worked through Samuel because Samuel was willing to be one thing: God's servant.

Join us for worship each week this spring for this 7-part biographical study entitled "Samuel: The Making of a Spiritual Leader." Together we will learn so many practical lessons just by looking at how God dealt with one individual who was open to his leading.









**May 3** Felix A. (MCS Student)

May 8 Cale Curtin

May 12 Karsen Agnitsch (BB)

May 13 Deanna S. (MCS Staff)

**May 16** David & Angela Hall

> May 22 Annalie Nelson

May 23 David Cougill May 24
Kirk Nelson
Paige S. (MCS Staff)
Chance R. (MCS Staff)

**May 25** Joe Draper

**May 27** Sophia Kerns (BB)

May 28 Addison Huff (BB)

**May 29** Rhonda L. (MCS Staff)

# Amy Sue Booher

## **Invites You**

To attend a celebration of her graduation from

Western Iowa Tech Community College.

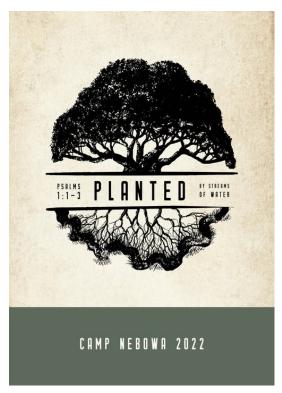
May 14, 2022 2-4 p.m.

First Church of Christ Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)





Worshiping with mom on Mother's day is a special way to honor all that mom has done for her family. First Church has a special Mother's Day service planned for Sunday morning, May 8th, 2022. Hope to see you there!



## **Camperships Available**

For those interested in attending any of the Camp Nebowa camps this summer there is financial assistance available.

If you are a member or an attendee of this church or attended Bible Buddies this last year the church will pay half of your camp fees. Further financial assistance can also be arranged.

To get a campership please register for Camp Nebowa through our church office.

Contact Nancy Monday—Friday between 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

The office number is 712-225-2667.

Registration forms can also be downloaded and printed from our website www.cherokeefcc.com under the Announcements tab.

A registration form is also included in this newsletter.



We are starting up greeting once more! All you have to do is say hello, direct guests to bulletins, communion, and provide answers to questions. Hand shaking is optional but smiles are a must. A sign up sheet is located on the lobby table. Sign up for as many dates as you want. Greeters should be ready to say hello by 8:30 a.m.



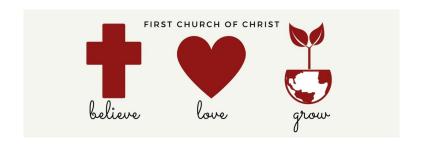
First Church of Christ holds the charter for Scout Troop 107. The scoutmaster is Barry Nelson and the assistant scoutmaster is Keith Wells. We even have a troop chaplain, Jonathan Caldwell. The troop generally meets on Tuesday evenings here at the church beginning at 6 p.m. depending on the activities the boys have planned.

Boys going into 6th through 12th grades from the Cherokee area and surrounding communities are welcome to join!

The boys are taught leadership skills and are encouraged to plan and prepare their activities with troop leader guidance. The boys go camping, learn new skills, advance in rank, build confidence, achieve success, make friends and serve their communities.

The more boys there are in the troop the more they can learn and develop together.

To join Troop 107 or to learn more please contact Nancy Nelson at 712-225-2650.



# **PLANTED**

Nebowa Christian Camp 2022

## **Registration Form**

Online registration is available at www.nebowa.com with secure payment options using your credit card.

Please complete <u>BOTH SIDES</u> of this form and send it with full registration fee to: Nebowa Christian Camp, P.O. Box 222, Onawa, Iowa 51040.

Camper's Name				
Address				
City/State/Zip				
Age Grade this fall	Grade this fall Sex (Circle One): Male / Female			
Phone	T-Shirt size (Circle One)	YS YM YL AS AM AL	XL XXL	
Parent's Email				
Attend Church at	Minister's Name			
Are you an immersed believer?	resNo			
Please check the camp you will attend:				
CAMP  Junior Camp 1 (5-6 Grades)  First Chance (1-2 Grades; MUST MAVE ADULT  High School (9-12 Grades)  Jr. High 1 (7-9 Grades)  Discovery 1 (3-4 Grades)  Discovery 2 (3-4 Grades)  Jr. High 2 (7-9 Grades)  Junior 2 (5-6 Grades)  Sports Camp JV (5-8 Grade)  Sports Camp Varsity (9-12 Grade)	June 5-9 June 10 June 19 June 12 June 26 July 7-9 July 17- July 10- July 24- July 24-	-11 \$70/80** -24 \$130/150* -17 \$130/150* -28 \$80/90* \$80/90* 22 \$130/150* -14 \$120/140* -28 \$130/150*		
RETREATS  Women's Retreat Young Adult Camp Family Camp Crafty Camp (for Women) Man Camp Men Contribution	Aug July July Sep Sep Miss	ust 4-7 \$80/90* 15-17 \$50/60* 29-20 \$25/ Perso t. 9-11 \$70/80* t. 15-17 N/A***	on or \$80/Family	
<del></del>	Tota	I Enclosed		

\*Please note: If pre-registering, please mail in pre-registration by May 31 for all camps.

If mailed after, pay the higher fee. All canteen (snack time) costs are included in the registration price.

"First Chance Camp does not require a paid registration for each parent. All costs are included in the campers registration.

""A free-will offering will be taken during Man Camp to help offset costs for the weekend.

Church Official Signature	
4-1	

In case of emergency, contact:
Parent/Guardian Names (PLEASE PRINT)
Cell PhoneWork Phone
Alternate Contact/Phone
Health Information
Campers Date of Birth
Date of last tetanus injection
Are you now taking any medications? (Circle One) Y / N
If so, what?
Are you allergic to any medications? (Circle One) Y / N
If so, what?
Are you allergic to any foods? (Circle One) Y / N
If so, what?
Please list any other allergies:
Any other medical problems?
Name of Current Insurance Provider
Family Physician
Physician Phone Number
By signing this form, you agree to the following:  If you (Nebowa Christian Camp) are unable to contact our family physician or it is not feasible because of distance.  I give permission for camp personnel to call another physician of their choice in case of accident or serious illness
I understand that the camp insurance is a co-insurance.  Over-the-counter medication may be given by the camp health officer if needed.
Photos and video of campers are likely to be taken during camp and used for promotional purposes unless the camp is notified by parents/guardians of their desire for their student not to appear on any media.
Parent's Signature Date

# **Camp Nebowa Schedule**

JUNE

**JUNE 5 - 9** 

JUNIOR 1 5TH & 6TH GRADE | \$120/\$140

**JUNE 10 - 11** 

FIRST CHANCE CAMP 1ST & 2ND GRADE | \$70/\$80

**JUNE 12 - 17** 

JUNIOR HIGH 1 7TH - 9TH GRADE | \$130/\$150

**JUNE 19 - 24** 

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP 9TH - 12TH GRADE | \$130/\$150

**JUNE 26 - 28** 

DISCOVERY 1 3RD & 4TH GRADE | \$80/\$90 **JULY** 

**JULY 7 - 9** 

DISCOVERY 2 3RD & 4TH GRADE | \$80/\$90

**JULY 10 - 14** 

JUNIOR 2 5TH - 6TH GRADE | \$120/\$140

**JULY 17 - 22** 

JUNIOR HIGH 2 7TH - 9TH GRADE | \$130/\$150

**JULY 24 - 28** 

SPORTS CAMP JUNIOR VARSITY 6TH-8TH GRADE VARSITY 9TH-12TH GRADE \$130/\$150

## **ADULT RETREATS**

AUG. 4 - 7 | WOMEN'S RETREAT | \$80/\$90

A weekend to listen, learn, relax, and recharge.

We encourage all women who would like to take part to attend this retreat!

If you have any questions please contact Niqee Huff at 402.321.8002 or niqeehuff@hotmail.com

JULY 15 - 17 | YOUNG ADULT CAMP | \$50/\$60

This camp for is for young adults out of high school who are looking for a community to fellowship with.

Come learn, have fun, and enjoy time together!

JULY 29 - 30 | FAMILY CAMP | \$25 PER PERSON/\$80 PER FAMILY

This is a camp for families to come and enjoy a weekend together! You'll learn about how to become closer as a family and closer to God as a family!

SEPTEMBER 9 - 11 | WOMEN'S CRAFTY CAMP | \$70/\$80

A weekend of fun, fellowship and of course awesome crafts at the lake in the fall!

SEPTEMBER 15 - 17 | MAN CAMP

Boots, beards, and Bible.

Come join other men from our communities to retreat and rejoice in the good things God has given us. There will be plenty of manly things going on, including shooting stuff, riding stuff, driving stuff, and eating stuff, and of course, conversations about Jesus and how He is changing our lives.

# Be Doers of the Word and Not Hearers Only

James 1:19-27

So then, my beloved **BRETHREN**, let every man be **SWIFT** to **HEAR**, **SLOW** to **SPEAK**, slow to **WRATH**; for the wrath of man does not **PRODUCE** the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God.

Therefore **LAY ASIDE** all **FILTHINESS** and **OVERFLOW** of wickedness, and receive with **MEEKNESS** the **IMPLANTED** word, which is able to **SAVE** your **SOULS**.

But be **DOERS** of the word, and not **HEARERS** only, **DECEIVING** yourselves. For if **ANYONE** is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man **OBSERVING** his **NATURAL** face in a **MIRROR**; for he observes himself, **GOES AWAY**, and immediately **FORGETS** what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect **LAW** of **LIBERTY** and **CONTINUES** in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the **WORK**, this one will be blessed in what he does.

If anyone among you thinks he is **RELIGIOUS**, and does not **BRIDLE** his **TONGUE** but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is **USELESS**. Pure and **UNDEFILED** religion before God and the Father is this: to visit **ORPHANS** and **WIDOWS** in their **TROUBLE**, and to keep oneself **UNSPOTTED** from the **WORLD**.

# Many Ways to Give at First Church of Christ



In Person
We love to see you!



**Mail**First Church of Christ
772 N. 2nd Street
Cherokee, IA 51012



**Our Ap**Text FCCGIVER to
1-888-364-GIVE (4483)



**Online** www.cherokeefcc.com

MJFRKOETQOEFZDSREODBGGSWIFTE UPBPOJNJEJIRESBTHTIRVYNVCBXP N B N H D G O G W R F L W A Q C Y N O K W P W C F V I N SNYEQGYMJDIZKVDCBKQNQOFDVMQQ PDGACFNJKFVOVERFLOWSGILRSVFO OBORMNAAEVBTNQRCONTINUESMOYX TSEECJEDOOYJIRVKVBXIPSEVLQGV TNSRLPNRELIGIOUSIBMOIECBXCXP EAASSUVFKAFSDSMVWFCBQLUBKXJL DHWWUHCMEEKNESSMTLCSFEVHKPAX J P A J U N H J R B Q W S Q O D Y V F E N S K P Y W H B URYFDXGTIJWVFLGKIHORYSNCORFW EONCWPFLGHNATURALRRVBRETHREN DVQKHWIYHDRQBOKTBNGIOHVQNNMN IKPUWRLTTDETNALPMIENAAPHIFWA SSOULSTRENAXJIDHXVTGYHWLVYRN AOQUSDHOOJYTREBILDSARCOCLQAO YKGBNAIUUAOJLGJFNLRKHIRQRMTK AVMPBQNBSKWGHECUDORPRGKWRQHJ LQRFXVELNYYFHNJWRUQAPJSBOTZE NTLLJPSEEODQARORDZEXCKERMREO XGEVSISVSNFWLEICWHTLMJJCCMLP HRVXHIWBSQYXUMFHNVFGNIVIECED ELDIRBGPUUCYRTIXRJDBMLSWODIW

### **WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE**

1-May	8-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	
Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church Angel		Children's Church	
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall		
Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	Children's Sunday	
Polly Fishman	Sholeen Sparks	Dixie Draper	Angela Hall		
Communion Mes-	Communion Mes-	<b>Communion Mes-</b>	Communion Mes-	Communion Mes-	
David Hall	Dennis Smith	Mike Sparks	Kirk Nelson	David Hall	
Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	Worship Leader	
Sharon Henkel	David Hall	Wren Smith	Wren Smith	Wren Smith	
Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	Keyboard	
Wren Smith	Eleanor Johnston	Wren Smith	Wren Smith	Wren Smith	
Piano	Piano	Piano Piano		Piano	
-	Wren Smith	-	-	Eleanor Johnston	
Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	Singers	
Dennis Smith	Angela Hall	Dennis Smith	Dennis Smith	Sharon Henkel	
Larry Heschke	Angel Jansen	Sharon Henkel	Angel Jansen	Larry Heschke	
Wren Smith					
PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	PowerPoint	
Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	Braella Inman	Nancy Nelson	
Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	Sound	
Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	Larry Heschke	Mike Sparks	
Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	Janitors	
Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	Lorraine Duvall	
Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	Dixie Draper	

#### **BOARD OF ELDERS & DEACONS UPDATE**

#### **Board Meeting Notes April 10, 2022**

#### **Mission Reports**

- The Tortured for Christ Book Study is wrapping up the week after Easter Sunday.
- Camp Nebowa cleanup dates are April 23 and April 30.
- Midwest Christian Services will have sessions at Camp Nebowa on August 2nd and 3rd this summer.

#### Fellowship & Worship

- Easter Services there will be a Good Friday Service at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday morning Easter worship will be at 9 a.m.
- The board finalized their plans for the Easter breakfast that will take place from 8 a.m.—8:45 a.m.

#### **Buildings and Grounds**

- Larry Heschke is going to check in with Valley Glass to see if the door for the lower southwest door has been ordered.
- The excess furniture in the chapel will be removed from the chapel this week to be donated.

#### **New Business**

- The downspout on the west side of the building needs repaired. Barry Nelson said he would try to fix it.
- There was some discussion about spring cleaning and maintenance for the church. Kirk Nelson said he
  would respread the gravel in the parking lot. Larry Heschke said he would get with Joe Draper and develop
  a to-do list.
- The board was asked about offering Vacation Bible School this summer and it was suggested that they ask the Bible Buddy volunteers about offering VBS.
- Larry Heschke and Joe Draper got an estimate for new gutters and downspouts with leaf guards for the parsonage. There were questions about the soffits and roofing and whether that should be done before new gutters. Otherwise the new gutters would have to be taken off again should the roof and soffits ever get replaced. Larry and Joe said they would check into those. The bid for the gutters, downspouts, and leaf guards was from Guarantee Gutter at a price of \$2,614.00. No action was taken at this time.

The next board meeting will take place on May 15, 2022 following Bible Classes.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

April 3		April	April 10		April 17		April 24	
On Campus	84	On Campus	90	On Campus	119	On Campus	79	
Online	24	Online	23	Online	26	Online	21	
TOTAL	108	TOTAL	113	TOTAL	145	TOTAL	100	

#### **OFFERING**

April 3		April 10		April 17		April 24	
On Campus	4628.00	On Campus	6700.00	On Campus	3071.00	On Campus	2265.00
Online	98.55	Online	373.55	Online	98.55	Online	-0-
Designated	-0-	Designated	-0-	Designated	694.35	Designated	-0-
TOTAL	\$ 4,726.55	TOTAL	\$7,073.55	TOTAL	\$3,863.90	TOTAL	\$2,265.00

#### **BIBLE CLASSES**

10:00 a.m.

#### **Christian Standard Curriculum**

Chapel

#### **Ladies Class**

Room 7 - Downstairs

#### **Men's Class**

Room 8 - Downstairs

#### **Children's Class**

**Downstairs** 

#### MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nebowa Christian Camp Midwest Christian Services **Deaf Missions** International Disaster Emergency Services Rapha International Voice of the Martyrs

#### **CHURCH INFO**

#### Worship

Sunday Mornings 9:00 a.m.

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leadership

Pastor David Hall (641) 638-4762 Mike Sparks, Elder (712) 261-4730 Kirk Nelson, Elder (712) 540-9591 Larry Heschke, Elder (712) 221-7592 Mark Patten, Deacon Barry Nelson, Deacon Tom Mortenson, Deacon

#### Website

www.cherokeefcc.com FB: @firstchurchcherokee

**Phone: (**712) 225-2667 **Email:** office@cherokeefcc.com Office Secretary: Nancy Nelson







«City», «State» «Lip» «Street Address» «First Name» «Last Name»

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Cherokee, lowa 51012 772 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street