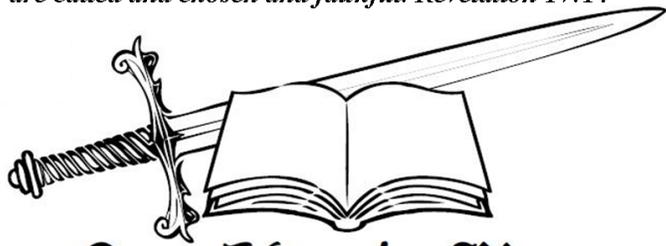


He is Lord of lords and King of Kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. Revelation 17:14



Our King's Men

Laurel Ridge Community Church Men's Ministry

Summer 2019

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people... This is good, and pleases God our Savior' —1 Tim 2:1, 3



Men's Ministries Adds Group

Time: Tuesday and Thursday night 7:00 PM
Place: Laurel Ridge Church, Room 301
Host: Jeff Alford

Laurel Ridge men now have a new men's community group. The new group meets on Thursday nights at 7pm in room 301 at church. The Tuesday night group continues to meet, also at 7 PM in room 301.

If you are looking to come, we'll see you there on Thursday nights.

We're also looking for someone to lead the Thursday group study. If you feel God is calling you to this ministry, let me know. I will help you get it started and continue to support you every step of the way. ✝



How Big Are Your Prayers?

—by Keith Cook

The way we pray to God says a lot about the way we see God. It also says a lot about how we see ourselves as God's servants.



When you pray, do you pray big prayers to a big God or small prayers to a small God?

One way to pray small is not to pray often, or not to spend much time in prayer. The amount of time each day that you devote to God in prayer is a strong indicator of how important he is to you.

One way we pray small is when we pray mostly for our own needs, or just those of our family. When Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13 how to pray, he used plural pronouns: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

One way we pray small is by limiting our prayers to just a few topics. Philip Yancey, in his

—cont'd on page 4



What is NEXT STEPS?

At Laurel Ridge Church, we believe that following Jesus is not a classroom experience but a journey. Since Next Steps is a journey, we'll give you a backpack and a different item each week that reinforces the training we're giving you to follow Jesus with us.

Step 1: Connect

First Sunday of the month

Join us to connect with Pastor Dan's personal story and Laurel Ridge's unique story, and discover how pursuing God with us can impact your story as well.

Step 2: Community

Second Sunday of the month

Enjoy some fun activities and discover how to build community by making friends, following Jesus and making a difference in a Community Group.

Step 3: Change Maker

Third Sunday of the month

Discover how you are uniquely shaped to impact others. Then pick from two adventures. The first will take you on a tour of key places on our campus to observe how volunteer teams called Change Makers are impacting people's lives. Or, you can choose to learn how to make a difference as a Community Group Leader impacting people's lives in homes all over our community.

Step 4: Compassion

Fourth Sunday of the month

We will explore how people at Laurel Ridge just like you unleash compassion both locally and globally—changing the world one neighborhood at a time.

Sign me up!

The Next Steps Experience happens on the first four Sundays of each month at 11:00 AM in Room 101. To reserve your spot, browse to <https://rock.laurelridgechurch.org/page/544>

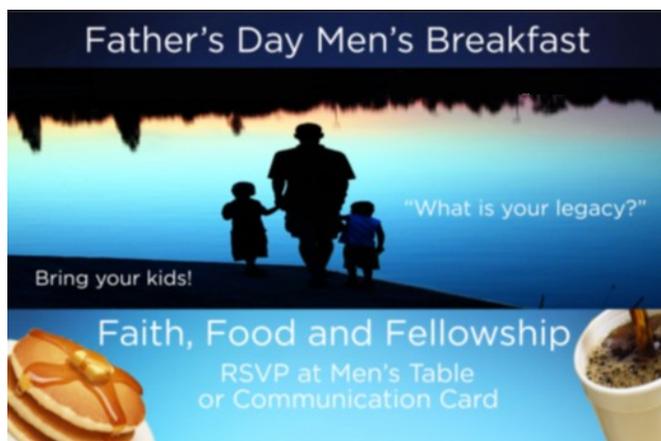


Prepare for the journey ahead and start getting acclimated to your faith. You will be equipped with new tools (or encouraged to sharpen old tools) that will give you a firm footing in your lifelong journey of faith in Christ. Facilitated by well-trained guides, you will gather with others who are at a similar stage to discuss important matters of faith, life, and growing in Christ. No question is off limits.

This nine-week course is designed for new Christians, people with doubts and questions about God, faith, or the Bible, and people who are returning to church after a long time away.

The summer session begins June 9. For more information or to sign up, visit the Base Camp page at the Laurel Ridge Church website, at: <http://www.laurelridgechurch.org/base-camp>

Events and Ministry Opportunities



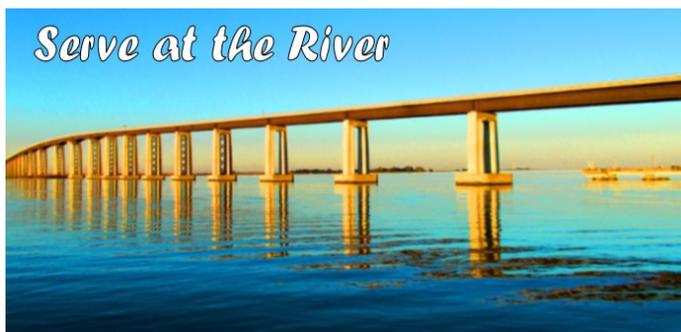
We're celebrating Father's Day early this year. Our Father's Day breakfast is Saturday, June 1, 8-10 AM at Laurel Ridge Church. Kids and fathers are welcome—bring at least one of each if you can!

Our own Eric Wirfel will emcee the festivities. Join us for a message of wisdom and encouragement for fathers and grandfathers as well as a delicious breakfast and fellowship.

Sign up for the men's breakfast on the Sunday service communication card or on the church website or mobile app.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for kid-friendly content such as videos someone willing to share his testimony. And as always, we need a few men to cook the meal and set-up tables. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Jeff Alford at 925-550-4334 or at men@laurelridgechurch.org.



Sunday, June 23, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch.

Also on July 28, August 25 and September 22 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at 925-329-1108 for more information or to sign up.

Ignite Men's Retreat

Friday, August 9, 3 p.m. to Sunday, August 11, noon, at ECO camp at Lake Berryessa. Richard Andrew will lead the worship service on Saturday night. Register soon at: <http://www.norcalmen.com/ignite> then contact Jeff Alford at men@laurelridgechurch.org or at 925-550-4334 for travel arrangements.

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Pray Big! —cont'd from page 1

book, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*, writes that 80 percent of prayer requests are for better health for ourselves or a loved one. I would guess that prayers for travel mercies and salvation for a family member probably account for another 10 percent of all prayer requests.

There's no shortage of things to pray for. We can pray for all unsaved people on earth instead of just our own unsaved family members; for God to guide the thoughts, decisions, words, and actions of everyone on earth today; for God to motivate all people to seek, find, and live by his truth, reality and righteousness; for opportunities to share the Gospel; for wisdom, faith, courage, closeness to God, a servant's heart for us toward God, our spouse and others; for our nation to turn away from the abyss of moral decay and become a nation and people who love and follow Jesus... and on and on.

One way we pray small is how we pray. For example, do you pray for salvation for someone? Great idea, except Jesus has already answered that prayer for all mankind! Try praying instead that your loved one open his eyes, ears, mind, and heart to Jesus, that God take him through whatever trial or experience is necessary to bring that person to the cross of Christ. (Are you willing to pray that prayer even for your own unsaved children?)

You've probably heard that specific prayers are better. God isn't trying to be tricky. Jesus said in Matthew 6:8, *Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him*. But I believe that he wants us to put some thought and effort into our prayers, just as he wants us to put thought and effort into loving him and others.

Romans 8:16-17 says that we who have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior are adopted children of God and co-heirs with Jesus of the blessings of heaven. We love and serve a God of enormous, unfathomable power, knowledge, wisdom, love, mercy, faithfulness, beauty, kindness, righteousness and glory. He's a big God. He can accomplish anything he wants, but he wants to work through us. He can handle big prayers. So when you pray, pray big! ✠



Who raised people from the dead?

Answer below.

Eight. Elisha raised two boys and his bones raised a man (1 & 2 Kings); Jesus raised a boy, a girl, and Lazarus (Luke 7 & 8 and John 11); Peter raised a woman (Acts 9); Paul raised a man (Acts 20).