

PRAY

1. Leaders in worship: Pastor Rickey Primrose, Brandon Ramey & the Worship Ministry.
2. God will meet with us through His word and by His Spirit, lead us to worship Christ and grow in Christ-likeness.
3. God will help us to be a church of zeal and hope, passionate about ministry and confident in His promises.
4. God will make us more passionate about and obedient to His mission of leading people to trust and follow Christ.

MUSIC

PRELUDE MUSIC

Our God Reigns

Jon Thatcher/ Martin Smith/ Stewart Smith/ Stuart Garrard/ Tim Jupp

CORPORATE SINGING

Holy, Holy, Holy

John Bacchus Dykes and Reginald Herber

TIME OF PRAYER

Manifest Your Presence

Prayer Time Band

PREPARE FOR THE MESSAGE

1 Peter 2:18-25

We resume our 1 Peter series this Sunday by looking at 2:18-25. Peter says in verse 21, "For to this you have been called..." What is the "this" Peter is referring to within this passage? What, according to Peter, have we been called to as followers of Christ?

Prepare for Sunday by meditating on this rich passage. Read it through several times. What is your first reaction when you suffer unfairly? What does the life of Christ teach us about a distinctively Christian approach to unfair treatment? Make a two-column list in your journal or on a piece of paper. On one side, write out worldly responses to unfair treatment and on the other side write out responses to unfair treatment that Peter describes in this passage. Now consider which side best describes your own life?

LYRICS

Our God Reigns

VERSE 1

Our God is great and glorious
We put our trust in Your name, Jesus
Able to save, and deliver us
We put our hope in Your name, Jesus

PRE-CHORUS

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Unto our God forever and ever.
All of the honor, all of the praise is Yours
Yours forever

CHORUS

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Our God reigns
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Our God reigns

VERSE 2

Our God is mighty and marvelous
We put our trust in Your name, Jesus
Nothing to fear, You are here with us
We put our hope in Your name, Jesus

BRIDGE

Our God is in control,
steadfast, unmovable
Nothing's impossible,
Cause our God,
He reigns forever

CHORUS

Manifest Your Presence

VERSE 1

There's a sense of hope
Because Your Spirit dwells within our hearts
You are in control
With every promise Lord You'll make a way

CHORUS

Manifest Your presence, here with us
We pray with expectation, with expectation
Let Your power be displayed with us
We pray with expectation, with expectation

VERSE 2

There's a work ahead so we receive Your
Mercy and Your grace
Let us keep aflame
The fire inside us enduring til the end

BRIDGE

Where Your Spirit is there is liberty
You unveil our hearts Lord to Your glory
There's new life in You we are free from sin
You unveil our hearts Lord to Your glory

CHORUS

Manifest Your presence, here with us
We pray with expectation, with expectation
Let Your power be displayed with us
We pray with expectation, with expectation

RESPOND TO THE SERMON

Sunday, Sep. 2 "One Transformation to Another"
Acts 4:13-22

Truth: We are called to be bold with our lives. These ordinary men spoke boldly and confidently. God can use anyone. What made them different was that they were with Jesus. We all have a responsibility to advance the kingdom. To do this, we must spend time with Jesus. Jesus, and his Word, is the source of our courage and power.

Response: How does it make you feel that the lost are observing your life to see if God is working in your life? Think of a situation when you were bold for Christ. Think of a situation when you failed to be bold. Prayerfully prepare now for situations you will encounter this week that will require boldness.

Truth: We are called to be bold with our loyalty. Peter and John had healed the lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate. The Council realized that this healing was evident and public. Not knowing how to punish them, they decide to just warn and release them. They were responding out of fear of losing their power and influence. This shows us how much the enemy fears the witness of the church. We must stay loyal to our Savior, as he is loyal to us (Hebrews 13:5).

Response: Peter and John were public in their healing of the lame beggar. In what area of your faith and life do you need to be more public? What is one thing you can do this week to be more public with your faith? Examine your heart to assess what is competing

with God for your loyalty.

Truth: We are called to be bold with our lips. They can't stop speaking what they had seen. Sharing the gospel is simply being real about what has happened in your life and being real to the Word. God uses ordinary people who have a passion for Christ by filling them with the Spirit. We don't need to know a technique, have a certain personality, or memorize hundreds of verses. We often disqualify ourselves, forgetting that the Spirit qualifies us.

Response: With whom have you verbally shared the gospel recently? Pray for the boldness to take advantage of the individual opportunities to verbally share the gospel that God will give you this week. What would it look like if MacArthur Blvd Baptist Church truly embodied boldness in our desire to reach those outside the church?

FAMILY RESPONSE

Sunday, Sep. 2 "One Transformation to Another"
Acts 4:13-22

Truth: According to dictionary.com a transformation is "a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance." Jesus Christ transformed Peter and John from "uneducated, common men" to bold, Holy Spirit-filled proclaimers of Jesus Christ. The beggar at the temple was transformed in the name of Jesus Christ from "a man lame from birth" to a walking, leaping God-praiser. The evidence of spiritual transformation is worship of God. "For all were praising God for what had happened."

Response: Do not overlook the truth of transformation when stewarding the Gospel with your children. One part of God's saving work of grace is the repentant's belief in his/her personal sin. The Holy Spirit's work of conviction is evidenced by this belief in personal sin. In other words, if there is no personal sin to turn from, there is no Savior Jesus to turn to.

Response: Transformation and choice are different. Choices are a part of life every day. Bake a cake as a family. Choose a mix. Choose a frosting. Choose some decorations. Next time you can always make different choices. But once the ingredients of a cake are mixed together and baked, there is a transformation. A dramatic change has taken place, which cannot be undone. The transformation is evidence that the ingredients were actually baked.