

KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE



"Going Beyond What We Know"

By Pastor Lyn Linde, Norton First United Methodist Church

We do what we know. For example, we often cook like those who cooked for us. "It's a family recipe!" we say with great pride. I come from a long line of strong German descent on one side and Dutch on the other. I like heavy breads and shoo-fly pie. Yet, I cannot begin to duplicate those old tried and true recipes.

Doing what we know crosses over into all areas of our lives, like how much we exercise, how much we watch TV and how much money we spend. These are behaviors we learn from someone, usually from family members. Sometimes, doing what we know is rather insignificant, but in other situations it can have a profound impact on who we become and the development of our lives.

As a child we were taught that church was just as important as our public school education. We were never late to catch the bus, always did our homework and turned it in on time and reaped the rewards of a good foundational education for life. The same is true of our commitments to the church. It is here that we are rooted in the word of God where we learn virtues, values and morals for every day living. In our home, the Bible was read and a prayer spoken at every meal. We attended Sunday

School, Worship, Youth Group, Bible Study and Prayer Meetings regularly. These commitments were equal to that of going to school, doing our home work, or completing chores at home on the farm. The same dedication was experienced creating a well rounded balance in our family life, school and church life.

Depending on what you have seen, heard and learned, doing what you know can be very fulfilling and lead to a happy life. It can also be limiting and lead to feelings of mediocrity. God is always calling us out of a limited, mediocre life into an expansive, abundant life, and thus God is always calling us beyond what we

know into unknown territory. God introduces us to people we have never met so that we will mature; God pushes us into places we have never been so that we will grow.

Think of the biblical stories of Abraham and Jacob, both of whom were called by God out of their homelands into foreign lands. They had to leave their security behind in order to live out the plan that God had for them. Both Abraham and Jacob trusted in God enough to follow where the Spirit took them, and for this, they are heralded as pioneers in the faith. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11.

Each of us is on a journey of discovery to become the child of God we were born to be, but if we simply stick to what we know, we might miss our true callings. This journey called life is an exciting one. No two persons are created alike, therefore, no two journeys will bring about the same results. The call to move beyond what we know is not only for the young, however, it is for everyone. The challenge before us is to go beyond what we know. Where is God calling you to go?

Hunger in the Heart



Is something missing in your life - even when things are going well? Is there an emptiness in your spirit? A hunger in your heart? With God, a good life can be great. Your heart can be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. You will see others in a different and more compassionate light and feel more satisfaction in simple encounters. God tells us in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry and he who believes in me will never thirst." Visit your house of worship this week. God invites you to feast at His table and turn a good life into a great life.

Weekly Scripture Reading					
Joshua 23.1-16	Joshua 24.1-33	2 Cor. 1.1-24	2 Cor. 2.1-17	2 Cor. 3.1-18	2 Cor. 4.1-18
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society					
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7	8	2	1	4	3	5	9	6
1	3	8	2	6	7	4	5	9
2	7	4	8	9	5	6	3	1
6	9	5	3	1	4	8	2	7
4	2	7	9	5	8	1	6	3
3	5	1	6	7	2	9	4	8
8	6	9	4	3	1	2	7	5

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