

A Simple Summer



Ah, yes! It is that time of year again. Many people live their lives in anticipation for this season. They love the warm days. They enjoy the times at the pool. They thrive off of the family times spent around the patio table. The smell of barbecue drifts in the summer breeze. Schedules are adjusted to make room for vacation. The children are thrilled to be out of school. The church is gearing up for a fruitful Vacation Bible School. All of these things are a clear reminder that the heart of summer is here. If we are all honest with ourselves most of us would say that we love the summer time. But I wonder why that is? Yes, we enjoy all of the things previously listed. But, at the heart of it all I believe the thing that we enjoy the most is the simplicity of summer.

For most of us summertime offers a little break from the rat race of life. This is not to say that we don't work, plan, and accomplish goals. I am simply saying that the summertime is usually not as overwhelming as other times in the year. The fact is that the world, our lives, and sometimes even the church are becoming more and more complex. We live in a society where information is always increasing. Through technology we have the opportunity to interact with the whole world and this technology is constantly improving at very rapid rates. These things in themselves are not bad, but they inevitably result in our lives become more and more complex and busy. We run from place to place trying to get everything done. We take the kids from here to there just to keep up with commitments that we have made. We purchase cell phones because we don't have enough time to make all of our calls from the office or home. We are overwhelmed as we strive to be at every church function. And in the midst of it all we get to a place where something HUGE is missing – simplicity.

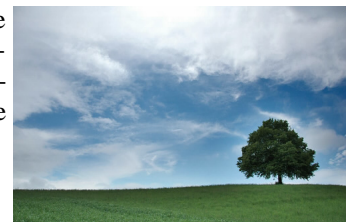
Jesus is the author or simplicity. There is no greater authority to turn to for an example and a teacher of simplicity. Religiously speaking, Jesus lived amongst a very complicated generation. His society was filled with Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, Zealots, and Essenes. These groups were all busy in their commitments, practices, and beliefs, but they were missing simplicity. In the book *Simple Church* authors Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger remind us that the religious leaders of Jesus' day had developed a religious system composed of 613 laws. They organized this system by finding 613 commandments throughout the first five books of the Old Testament. After they established their religious system with its laws they divided the law into negative commands (don't do this) and affirmative commands (do this). In the end there were 248 affirmative commands. In their minds, they thought that there was one affirmative command for every part of the human body. Then there were 365 negative commands, which they conveniently listed so that there was one for every day of the year. Beyond that division they became more detailed when they divided the laws between binding and nonbinding commands. Even as I briefly explain this, you can easily see the complexities of their religion. No one could keep up with all of those commands. No one could meet the standard that they had for themselves. So, what would Jesus say to this amazingly complex yet lost people? How would he respond to people who were busy in religion but had no relationship with God? Well, as we will see, He responded with simplicity.

Jesus gives us the answer to simplicity in Matthew 22:37-40. With His wisdom and teaching He had just silenced the Sadducees. With the Sadducees being put to shame the Pharisees saw this as a prime opportunity to humiliate Jesus and to also show their superiority to the Sadducees. So, the Pharisees comprised a sort of debate where one of their smartest leaders, a lawyer, asked Jesus a probing question: "Teacher which is the great commandment in the Law?" Out of all of their 613 commandments, he wanted to know which one Jesus said was the greatest. Jesus responded with this, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. **On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.**" Can we fully grasp the simplicity of Jesus' answer? He basically said all of the Law, all 613 of your commands, is summed up in this simple and perfect phrase. He was not ignoring the other commands. He was simply capturing all of the laws in one statement. Jesus took the difficulties of the Law and made it very simple. In essence, instead of a long list of rules and regulations, Jesus was offering grace and a simple relationship with God.

Let me ask you, is your life simple? If I were to ask your closest friend who or what you love, would they clearly say that you love the Lord above all others? I believe the reality is that far too many of our lives have become so cluttered that many of us are busy *doing* church instead of *being* the church that He has called us to be. So in closing I ask you to examine your life and ask these questions: "What am I doing, on a daily basis, to show my love for God?" and "What am I doing, on a daily basis, to show my love for others?" If we are honest with ourselves, I think we'll admit that it's time to simplify and reprioritize. As a church, it is time for us to simplify. Please be in prayer for me and for us that God will help us to simplify that we can become the disciple making church that He desires for us to be. I pray, spiritually, that the coming days will be A Simple Summer that will last until the Lord directs otherwise.

In Christ,
Pastor Matthew

WWW.GSBCFAMILY.ORG





Join us for a special treat on, Sunday July 26th as Brother John Welborn will be preaching both morning worship services.

www.johnwelborn.org

THANK YOU

Dear Senior Saints, Thank you for your many kind and funny words at my Birthday Roast!! Some of you may have stretched your stories just a little. No joking-it was great to see all of you and I am such a lucky person to have met each and every one of you. It was wonderful to break bread with you and celebrate my 88 years. The Lord has been great to me. I received so many beautiful cards and have so many lovely memories. You are all a blessing to me and you have been my family over the last years. My entire family sends their thanks and prayers for all of you. Please come visit me in Pennsylvania. Love and Prayers, Geneva Adams.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

During your summer vacations don't take a vacation from the study of God's Word. This summer we will be hosting two powerful small group studies for adults. Please read the descriptions and sign up for one today.

When: Wednesdays, 6:45PM, July 15 – August 26

Where: Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Who: Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend

For Anyone



In the frantic and noisy culture in which we live, how is it possible to hear God's voice? Utilizing the same inviting tone that made *Experiencing God* so appealing, Henry and Richard Blackaby provide instruction in discerning God's voice, identifying ways He speaks, and responding to the revelation of His will. You don't want to miss this wonderful study!

For Parents



The Parent Adventure will help you teach your children to love God and pursue His purposes for their lives. This study suggests practical ways you can build your children's faith through the day-to-day stuff of life. Though parenting is challenging and scary, it is also rewarding. The adventure lies in using those everyday teachable moments to prepare your kids for a lifetime with God.



COME JOIN US!!!!

Youth Service
Saturday, July 25th
5-8pm

(also, leading worship on the 26th)

Pizza, games, and the
Ryan John Band!!!

www.ryanjohn.org

Baptized

in the
Name of Jesus
Eric Lisic
June 27



Kevin
and
Suzanne
Hamm

NEEDED!!!!



Teachers for the Sparks class...k-2nd grade. Please see Ruthie as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of this fantastic program.

YOUTH WORSHIP AND SERVE

Youth, come out and grow in your relationship with the Lord and with others throughout the summer!! Sunday nights 5-7pm

SENIOR SAINTS



Seniors, are you looking for a good time? You are cordially invited to come to our meetings which are held the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the church fellowship hall. We begin our meetings with devotions, Bible study, singing old hymns and then follow with a potluck lunch. We would love to have you join us.

NURSERY & CHILDREN MINISTRIES

If you haven't completed your background check form, please fill them out as soon as you are able and mail them to the church. If you have misplaced your paperwork, please contact Marianne Rolfs at 540-250-6405 or at merolfs@yahoo.com or Ms. Barbara at the church office.



New York City Youth Mission Trip Update

June 14 – 20, 2009 GSBC Youth on Mission to Inner City New York

It was a fruitful and highly rewarding experience. A first mission trip for many on the team – we served in the boroughs of the inner city including Brooklyn, Bronx, and Manhattan.

We set up prayer stations on street corners, ran Kidz Klub for the church where we stayed (Park Slope Community Church in Brooklyn). Outreach to the homeless included serving in area soup kitchens, daily bagged lunches to the needy, and distribution of toothbrushes and hygiene items. We witnessed in the streets, gave small gifts and served for the love of our Christ. We helped host a cookout and concert/service at the end of the week. It was open to all, and many were saved. Even some were called in the ministry during this time.

Watch Video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0I5mKT41U7E>

Some comments from team members—

“While ministering to the homeless, I found myself wanting to be home with my Heavenly Father.”

“I see (saw) dead people” – and I prayed for them”.

“God opened my eyes...people need Him.”

“I’m not scared to share God or to pray, and that’s GREAT!”



“I want to shine light & show Christ to people through my live!”

“Something that affected me spiritually was how we all grew together.”

“The foot washing ceremony touched several because we were humbled by the example of Christ as He served His disciples.”

“I hope to share [the Gospel of hope] with many more people so they can make the same decision (to know Him and to share Him).”

“I could truly feel God’s presence – helping, guiding and protecting me.”

“I was able to see God’s moving in the small things.”

Acts 1:8 “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”



Kelly Ryan Memorial

Family Day Benefit

July 18th from 11:00am-4:00pm

at

Good Shepherd Baptist Church

Moonwalks

Face Painting

LIVE BANDS

Carnival Games

Concession Stand

SPIN ART

and LOTS More!!!

Silent Auction

All Proceeds collected that day will be given to the Kelly Ryan Memorial Fund. If you would like to volunteer to help in anyway with this benefit, please contact Theresa Repass at tgrepass@gmail.com or 540-239-9575.

OPERATION WORSHIP

The goal of this outreach is to take the Word of God to the troops who are fighting for our freedom. This year the Bible covers depict every division of the military – Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines. You can purchase a Bible for \$5.00 and write a brief message of encouragement and gratitude inside the Bible. You just return the Bible to the church .

PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be added to the internet prayer chain can sign up via the website...prayer@gsbcfamily.org or by calling Penny Kouns at 382-4647. You can use these two means of communication to have a prayer request posted.

JULY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 6-8p VBS Kickoff	6) 6:15p Men's Softball ←←←←←←←←	7) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary ←←←←←←←←	1) 5:30p Dinner 6:45p VBS Preparation	2) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6p Youth Praise Band 7:30p Praise Team Practice	3) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary	4) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary
12) Youth depart for camp 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service No Evening Activities	13) 8:15p Men's & Softball 9:15p ←←←←←←←←	14) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary Look Up ←←←←←←←←	8) Bible School →→→→→→→→ 6-9 pm 15) Lodge →→→→→→→→	9) 10a Senior Saints Fellowship 6p Youth Praise Band 7:30p Praise Team Practice	10) 6p – Family Cook-out & Camp Out	11) 9a Prayer time in sanctuary 10a – 1p - VBS
19) 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 6p Youth Testimonies & Ice Cream Social	20) 8:15p Men's & Softball 9:15p ←←←←←←←←	21) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary 7p Deacon's Meeting	22) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	23) 6p Youth Praise Band 7:30p Praise Team Practice	24) 6p Youth Praise Band 7:30p Praise Team Practice	25) 9a Prayer time in Sanctuary 5-8pm Youth Service with Ryan John
26) John Welborn, Guest Speaker Worship led by Ryan John 8:30a Worship Service 10a Bible Fellowship 11a Worship Service 5-7 Youth Worship and Serve	27) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary ←←←←←←←←	28) 6:30a Prayer time in sanctuary	29) 6:45-8:15p Youth & Adult Bible Studies, Children's Choir	30) 6p Youth Praise Band 7:30p Praise Team Practice		