

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
September 17, 2017

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Sunday Morning 09-17-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"  
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/281216>

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[Image]

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[http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441\\_152x152.jpg](http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg)

Baseball. Life. Jesus.

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life and baseball are full of fresh starts. Every batter will strike out and every player will make an error from time to time. Keep swinging. Keep trying. Never; never; never; ever give up!"

This is FRESH START SUNDAY! Grab this chance for a fresh start as we launch a new series - TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME (Baseball. Life. Jesus.) Stay for a picnic complete with hot dogs and apple pie at noon.

Support Needed for AWAKEN Youth Ministry

AWAKEN is back in full swing again and they need our support - both prayer and financial. On the youth bulletin board, there are envelopes with \$ amounts on the outside and a list of prayer requests inside. If you can support them in this way, please grab an envelope and begin praying for the requests. Return the envelope with the corresponding money amount enclosed. Please, place the envelope in the offering. Thank you

Ephesians 1:3-14 NLT

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified

you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

<http://bible.com/116/eph.1.3-14.NLT>

2000 years ago, when Jesus walked the roads of Israel, he told stories about every day experiences to help people understand God's plan for our lives. For example, he said, "Life in God's kingdom is like making bread. A little bit of yeast is all you need."

If Jesus came to our community now, he might say, "Friends, everything I needed to know about life I learned on the ball diamond. Life in God's kingdom is like a baseball game."

Lessons from the Ball Diamond

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_ in a book.
2. Everyone can see the \_\_\_\_\_ and the umpires keep us honest.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ stay the same but the levels of play change, as we grow older.
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ only when you cross Home Plate and the umpire calls you "Safe."
5. You cannot score at Home Plate until you \_\_\_\_\_ First, Second and Third Bases.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bases matters; and it is \_\_\_\_\_ clockwise.
7. If you skip a base, you will be called, "\_\_\_\_\_."
8. Every batter has his or her own unique \_\_\_\_\_ zone. Swing only at the pitches \_\_\_\_\_ your zone.
9. Every batter will \_\_\_\_\_ out.
10. Baseball is full of \_\_\_\_\_ starts.
11. Everyone plays to \_\_\_\_\_.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Unlike what you've heard, there are RULES for life, just like baseball.

#Baseball-Life-Lessons

In response to today's message, I will...

- o Change my outlook by memorizing Ephesians 1:3
- o Come back next week to learn more about Jesus
- o Start reading the account of Jesus' life recorded in the book of Mark