

Bay City Wesleyan Church
June 18, 2017

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Sunday Morning 06-18-2017 (Father's Day)
Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"
When was the last time you asked?
<http://bible.com/events/236143>
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[Image]
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http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg

Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next few months all of us in this church, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

Strawberry Festival This Week!
There will be a Strawberry Festival to raise support for the Community Village in Saginaw on Tuesday this week. The Village is part of Mid-Michigan Rescue Ministries, like our partners at the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.
This event raises funds for Community Village residents to attend special activities (bowling, movies, restaurants, holiday parties). The event is funded by sponsors and strawberry shortcake sales. Funds are raised during the event from games and the sale of baked goods, strawberries, and other food.
<http://gsrmbaycity.org/events/strawberry-festival/>

BIG FAITH believes God is who he claims to be and that he will do everything he has promised.

BIG FAITH a BIG DEAL for Jesus because...

Trust was devastated in the Garden.

- + Dishonesty
- + Distrust
- + Disobedience

God has been working to restore trust ever since.

- + Truth
- + Trust
- + Transformation

How does Jesus build BIG FAITH?

The 5 things the Holy Spirit uses to grow BIG FAITH are:

1. Practical Teaching
2. Providential Relationships
3. Private Disciplines
4. Personal Ministry

5. Pivotal Circumstances

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus uses our human relationships to build BIG FAITH in him.

Mark 2:1-12 NIV

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

<http://bible.com/111/mrk.2.1-12.NIV>

While we cannot turn a human relationship into a relationship that builds our faith in Jesus, we can intentionally seek opportunities to develop relationships that build our faith and the faith of others.

FIRST STEPS:

1. Join a group that will provide the opportunity for providential relationships to develop.
2. Look for ways to encourage 3 people each week. It can be a phone call, a note, a thoughtful gift, or a simple pat on the back.