



*Changing Lives by
Leading Others
Into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus*

505 4th Ave NE Independence, Iowa 50644 (319) 334-7148
www.hopewesleyan.org

A.S.A.P.: Always Say A Prayer

We're having a baby! A grandson, to be precise! We received this wonderful news at Christmastime and I have to say, I find myself becoming more nostalgic the closer the due date gets.

I still remember the joy I experienced when my son said, "Da-Da" for the first time. There was just something about hearing those simple words that had an impact on me – perhaps because I realized my son acknowledged me as his father and he was trying to



communicate with me. The same is true of our Heavenly Father. When we come to God in prayer – just talking to Him as a child talks to their earthy father – it fills God's heart with joy.

Do you struggle to pray? I suspect we all do. One reason we have a hard time praying is we don't believe we pray good enough. I know some people who pray and it sounds like an angel's song from heaven. I listen to my prayers and they sound more like a wounded duck than anything else.

Another reason we struggle in prayer is we believe we're bothering God with our puny problems. I used to work for a company that made over \$1 million dollars in sales each month. The main boss started that company from the ground and he was a stern and powerful man. One day before going to work my wife handed me an envelope that went through the wash. It was my paycheck that had gone through the laundry! There was no way the bank would cash it. My only choice was to seek mercy (and a new paycheck) from the man who made millions.

Sometimes that's how we feel about going to God in prayer. We (falsely) believe God has so many more important problems to solve than our little issues. Nothing could be further from the truth. For God, the most important thing on His heart is what's happening in your heart. You are no

bother to God. He looks forward to hearing from you.

One other reason we struggle in prayer is that we misunderstand it. We might say, "I prayed, but God didn't give me what I asked for. What's the point of prayer?" We need to recognize we don't give orders to God; we follow orders from God. Prayer is not where we make demands; prayer where we make requests.

So, how should we pray? Here are three thoughts on how to pray. First: Pray Big! That might seem out of line but think about it for a moment. In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) Jesus directs us to pray for something really big, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." I don't think we could ask anything bigger than that, do you? When you pray, try to see each situation as it connects to God's kingdom purposes. And ask the Lord to do what He thinks is best as it relates to His kingdom coming and His will being accomplished in this world.

Secondly, Pray Specifically. Fuzzy prayers will get fuzzy results. Specific prayers get specific results. My daughter called me the other day on her drive back to Oklahoma and she had a question about which route to take. She wanted a specific answer, not a vague response. The more specific and detailed your prayers are, the more confidence you gain that God answered your prayer. There is nothing wrong with general prayers, but it's more difficult to know when they are answered.

Third, Pray Believing! The Bible says, "When you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord" (James 1:6-7).

If you pray big, specific prayers that are in alignment with His will and you believe God will answer that prayer, I am convinced you will be amazed at how He responds to your heartfelt request.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

Online @

hope@hopewesleyan.org

Children's Church

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

(Pre-school - 5th grade)

SMALL GROUPS

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

*Adult Class

Library

*Women's Class

Breakfast Club Room

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 11th

8:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Independence High School

Baccalaureate

Wednesday, May 15th

7:00 pm

Graduation

Sunday, May 19th

2:00 pm



Monday, May 27th

Music Moments



with Pastor Elissa

Psalm 22:3, "Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises."

Miriam: Prophetess & Worship Leader

Many of us know that worship is about more than a song, it's more than the title of our Sunday morning services, but what is worship really? Well the definition of worship is "to show profound devotion, love, and expression to God". I would like to shorten that definition and say that simply worship is love expressed. I heard one of my conference speakers' say that "Our job is to make God feel comfortable and make it the best place for Him." I think it is safe to say that if we are truly expressing our love to God as our act of worship than there could be no better place for Him than to be present in our life, hearts, homes and especially in church.

Many know the story of Miriam, at least the Sunday School version that we were told about how she was the one who ultimately saved Moses by taking him to the water and seeing that he was found and then came up with the suggestion that a Hebrew woman (her mother) nurse and care for Moses. However, there is another story about Miriam that I want to share with you.

Miriam could be considered a worship leader of her day. After the Egyptian army drowned in the Red Sea, she led the women in song and dance as they celebrated and praised God for how he had saved them. She was thought of very highly and was considered to be a very righteous woman. She did though have a time in which she led some astray.

While they were in the desert, she convinced Aaron to think and speak badly of Moses because he had married a woman of questionable decent. They spoke to others about him and were defiling his name. They even questioned his authority and why he seemed to be the only one who talked to God. It was at this point in her life when Miriam let her discontent hinder the purpose of Moses' calling. She was punished for this, but at the prayer of Moses, God granted her healing.

Miriam's story is one of life, courage, worship, bitterness, anger, sickness and ultimately of restoration. She shows us that no matter what we have done in life or how we may have fallen from our first love of God,

that we can indeed be restored and made whole. We can make our hearts and homes places in which God can feel comfortable. She reminds us that instead of expressing anger or hurt, it is important to always express love so that we will be in constant worship of our loving Creator!



Sunday, May 12th

NERF NIGHT

Childrens Church
Families with kids
Kindergarten to 5th Grade
Join us!
Saturday, May 4th
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Hope Wesleyan Church

Women's Connection
Monday, May 13th
6:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran
Reservations:
Call 319-361-9445

Sister in Widowhood
Friday, May 17th
1:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
If interested, call
Darlene Bumsted @
319-327-6217

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Lorraine Fulton | 1 |
| Randy Miller | 2 |
| Addison Gericke | 4 |
| Jenny Turner | 7 |
| Larry Karsten | 9 |
| Bill Andrews | 12 |
| Dianne Hepke | 13 |
| Karstyn Zimmerly | 16 |
| Jayda Greenwell | 17 |
| Joanna Kenney | 17 |
| Bob Solon | 19 |
| Kolt Zimmerly | 20 |
| Steve Zimmerly | 21 |
| Kim Tice | 24 |
| Alice Billingsley | 30 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Rich & Shirley Seamans | 24 |
|------------------------|----|

You're Invited!

2024

Graduation Open House
Karstyn Zimmerly
Saturday, May 18th
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Hope Wesleyan Church
Fellowship Hall

SAVE THE DATE

THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY

An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation

JULY 28TH – 31ST

NEXT STEPS

Baptism: Declare your faith in Christ through baptism.
Membership: Learn more about who we are, our beliefs and our mission at Hope Wesleyan Church.
Child Dedication: A ceremony in which believing parents make a commitment before the Lord and the congregation to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways.
 Contact: hope@hopewesleyan.org