

Service after Sermon

February 5, 2023 1 Kings 10:1-9

The Queen of Sheba. When you picture the Queen of Sheba what comes to mind? Perhaps a woman of extravagant beauty, rich and powerful. What do we actually know of the Queen of Sheba? In today's Yemen, archeology has found a place called Sheba, part of a kingdom that stretched from Arabia across the water into Africa. History tells us of a line of ruling queens in that part of the world. Tradition - Jewish tradition, Moslem tradition, Arab and African tradition - has all sorts of stories about the Queen of Sheba. As the Queen herself said - we don't know if half of them are true. But we do know this is true.

What do we know? Word got out. This is before the internet spreading news and fake news around the world in .2 seconds. This is before Iphones sending pictures and video around the world with the press of a button. This is back when news traveled from one to another, spoken by mouth, passed on by hand. Back when pictures were shared in the stories that were told. Back when word traveled from one to another, somehow the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon some 1200 miles away.

Word got out about Solomon's wisdom. People came from kingdoms around to hear his knowledge of plant life, animals, birds, reptiles, and fish. Perhaps the Queen heard about Solomon's wisdom in court, like the time two new moms came to Solomon with a baby boy. One of the new moms had turned over in her sleep and killed her baby; now she was claiming the living boy as hers. The two moms go to Solomon each claiming the surviving boy to be hers, each hoping that Solomon would give to herself the living boy for her to take home. How do you figure out who belongs to whom? This is back before DNA testing, back before birth certificates with baby footprints recorded. So what does Solomon do? Since both moms wanted the baby, he figured a way to make both happy - cut the baby in two. Now Solomon wasn't that cold and callous. What did he figure? The real mom wouldn't want her baby cut in two. And when the real mom spoke up to save the life of her baby, and the fake mom was willing to see the baby cut in half, Solomon knew. And word of Solomon's wisdom got out.

But it wasn't just word of Solomon's wisdom that got out. Word of Solomon's God, the name of the LORD got out. All the way to the Queen of Sheba. And she wanted to know more. She wasn't content to just hear more through the grapevine.

She wanted to see for herself and hear more of the fame of Solomon and the name of the LORD.

So the Queen of Sheba comes to Jerusalem with her caravan of camels carrying spices, gold (tons of gold), gems and jewels. She questioned Solomon about anything and everything she had on her mind. And Solomon passed the test; he was able to answer and explain whatever the Queen wanted to know.

What are we told? The Queen was impressed. The Queen who had traveled hundreds of miles over who knows how many weeks and months, the Queen rich and powerful enough to bring a caravan of camels with tons of gold, spices, gems and jewels - she was awed by Solomon. Awed by the wisdom of Solomon, awed by the riches of Solomon, awed by the rule of Solomon - everything in its place. But that's not all, the Queen of Sheba was impressed and awed by the LORD of Solomon. She was awed by the way Solomon worshiped the LORD; she was awed by the way the LORD blessed Solomon. **"Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness."**

Did you catch what the Queen had picked up? She hadn't just heard about "god," some generic god. She was learning of the LORD. Solomon's dad, David, had his people singing about the LORD: **"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him."** The Queen of Sheba recognized the LORD's love for Israel, his eternal love for Israel, in making Solomon king to administer justice and righteousness. Think about it. The Queen of Sheba saw Solomon doing more than running the family business, making a living, living the good life. The Queen saw God's King, God's heart, at work for his people working justice and righteousness.

I wonder; don't you? I wonder how much we get to read between the lines. Did Solomon tell the Queen about the name of LORD, how the LORD would show his grace and compassion in his forever King, the forever King promised to David and to Solomon, the forever King we know as Jesus?

Did Solomon tell how God's forever King would administer an even better justice and righteousness than Solomon could? Did the Queen get to go home to Sheba knowing the LORD's love for her? Did she get to go home knowing the LORD's forever king would sacrifice himself for her? That in the Kingdom of God's forever King she would be forgiven, and right with the God who had so richly blessed Solomon? We wonder - don't we? - if the Queen went home to Sheba calling on the name of the LORD for herself.

What a blessing to know that we don't have to wonder for ourselves, that we don't have to try to read between some lines to know where we stand with God. We might not have the riches or the power of the Queen of Sheba, but you have the invitation of Solomon's forever king: **"Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest."** We might not have all the creature comforts of the Queen or of Solomon, but we have the comfort-promise of Solomon's forever King: "Peace." We might not be surrounded by the justice and righteousness of Solomon's rule, but we have the justice and righteousness, the righteous judgment of Solomon's forever King: "You are forgiven for life with God." As much as the Queen of Sheba was awed and overwhelmed by all that the LORD had going for Solomon, with Jesus, we have even more

reason to be awed and overwhelmed by all that Jesus has going for us.

So what do we get to learn from this lesson with the Queen of Sheba and Solomon? We could put our self in the place of the Queen. Jesus pointed to the Queen of Sheba - he called her the Queen of the South - Jesus pointed to the Queen of Sheba as an example of the God-Lived Life, an example to shame the religious fakes and frauds who were only pretending to live the God-Lived Life. When the Queen got Word of the name of the LORD, she left life as she knew it to know more of the LORD. The people Jesus was dealing with were more interested in living life as they wanted it than in knowing more of the LORD. Puts a challenge before us, doesn't it? How much of our life are we willing to leave behind? How far are we willing to go to know more of the LORD? Think of all that the Queen of Sheba gave up to know more of the LORD; she didn't go home empty-handed, did she?

And what about the King? What does Solomon teach us about the God-Lived Life? The God-Lived-Life shows and the God-Lived Life attracts. What was it that brought the Queen to see Solomon? Not just word of Solomon's wisdom, but word of Solomon's LORD. And what did the Queen see on her visit? Just before we are told that the Queen was overwhelmed by

what she saw, we're told she saw Solomon worship. Solomon had company, important company, but that didn't stop Solomon from living the God-Lived Life; it didn't stop Solomon from his life of worship. And before the Queen leaves, what is on her heart and mind? The eternal love of the LORD showing in Solomon's life. The God-Lived Life shows and the God-Lived Life attracts.

One more thing. Perhaps you're thinking: "I'm no Queen; I'm no King." Did you catch what the Queen said about Solomon's servants? The way the servants lived their lives, the way the servants served, served to show the glory of the LORD. It doesn't matter what place we have in this world - the God-Lived Life shows and the God-Lived Life attracts. Amen.

February 4 & 5, 2023

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... what is the farthest you have ventured from home for business or for fun? What is the farthest you have traveled to learn about the LORD? What is the longest time you've been gone from home for business or for fun? What is the longest you've been away from home to learn of the LORD?

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we meet the Queen of Sheba as she visits Solomon. Instead of just being shamed or awed by her example, we join the Queen in awe of the LORD and his generous grace.

OPENING HYMN

"Cling Tightly to the Word of God"

Hymn 707

Cling tightly to the Word of God and Christ's disciple be,
for then, beloved, you will know
the truth that sets you free, the truth that sets you free.

Recall in faith the precious gift of your baptismal day,
when you were joined to Jesus' death
that washed your sins away, that washed your sins away.

For just as God raised up his Son from death by his great might,
so too, in Christ, we now may live
as children of the light, as children of the light.

Be strong! Stand firm! Come, walk the path that saints before you trod,
with ready feet to bring good news
of Christ, the peace of God, of Christ, the peace of God.

Know that his body and his blood will feed your hungry soul
like manna in life's wilderness,
until you reach your goal, until you reach your goal.

Now fix your eyes on Jesus Christ; “Come, follow me,” says he.
“Deny yourself, take up your cross;
come, lose your life for me, come, lose your life for me.”

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

HYMN

"O Lord, Our Lord"

Hymn 939

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa-ther, you crown our life

with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;

you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your

on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all. *Refrain* O Lord, our Lord,

how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of

God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;
 you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in
 your own blood. You are the King of glo - ry; you are the Lord!

Refrain
 O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 10:1–9

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72A

Refrain

Lord, ev - 'ry na-tion on earth will a - dore you.

Tone

Endow the king with your justice, / O God,
the royal son with your / righteousness.
May he endure as long / as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all gener- / ations.

May he be like rain falling on a / mown field,
like showers water- / ing the earth.
In his days may the righteous / flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon / is no more. **Refrain**

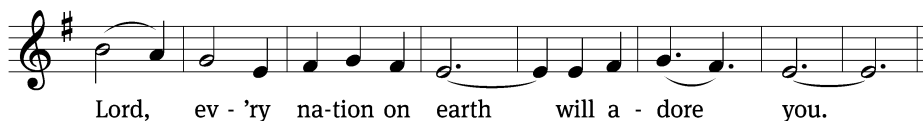
May all kings bow / down to him
and all nations / serve him.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be / given him.
May the kings of Sheba and Seba pre- / sent him gifts.

May people ever / pray for him
and bless him / all day long.

Then all nations will be / blessed through him,
and they will / call him blessed.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isaiah 55:11

Alleluia! It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 10:38–42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"One Thing's Needful"

Hymn 645

One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure teach me highly to regard.
All else, though it first give pleasure, is a yoke that presses hard.
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
no true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain.

How were Mary's thoughts devoted her eternal joy to find
as intent each word she noted, at her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
while hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
All earthly concerns she forgot for her Lord
and found her contentment in hearing his Word.

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in you.
Let me find in you my pleasure; make my will and actions true,
humility there and simplicity reigning,
in paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
the blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth. **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.




The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

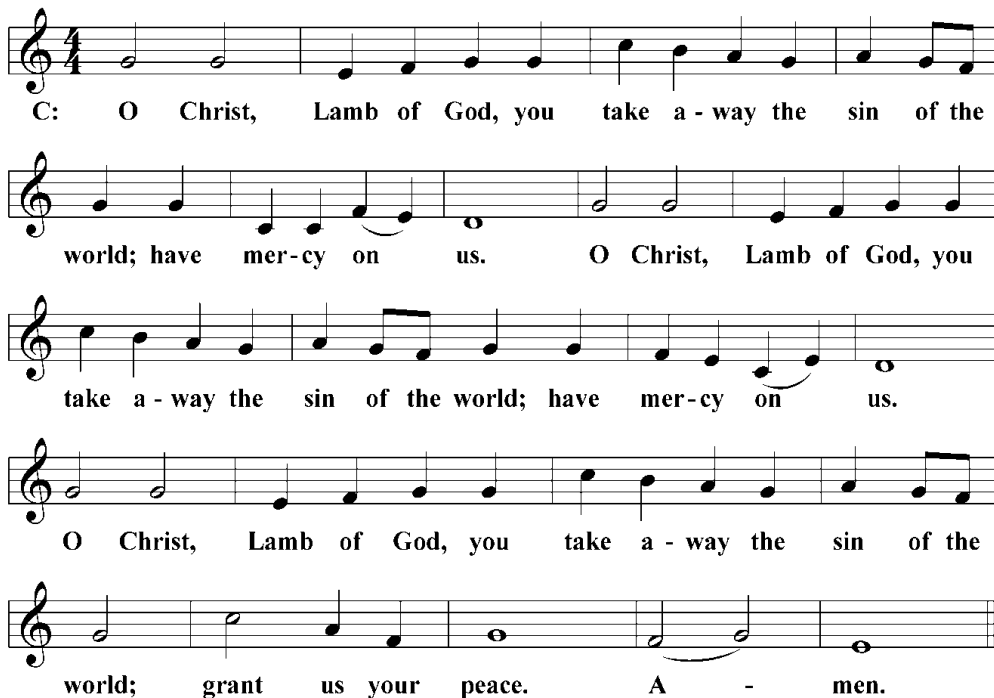
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render
unto him whose grace unbounded has this wondrous supper founded.
He, though reigning high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet him, and with loving rev'rence greet him,
for with words of life immortal he is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before him, saying, as you there adore him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive you, that I nevermore will leave you.

He who craves a precious treasure neither cost nor pain will measure,
but the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
naught would buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, and his blood, for you once given.

Now I kneel before you lowly, filled with joy most deep and holy,
as with trembling awe and wonder on your mighty work I ponder,
by such mystery surrounded, depths that no one ever sounded.
None may dare to pierce unbidden secrets that with you are hidden.

Human reason, though it ponders, cannot fathom these great wonders,
that Christ's body must be boundless since the souls it feeds are countless,
and that he his blood is giving with the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded are by God alone expounded.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, you have left your throne in heaven
on the cross for me to languish and to die in bitter anguish,
to forgo all joy and gladness and to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, fount of life, my soul inspiring:
at your feet I cry, my maker, let me be a fit partaker
of this blessed food from heaven for our good, your glory, given.

Jesus, Lord of life in heaven, help me when this meal is given
to receive it for my blessing as I come, my sins confessing.
In this supper let me measure, Lord, how deep is your love's treasure,
that, as I on earth have eaten, I may be your guest in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Hymn 705

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your Word, and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep,
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands—'tis a delightful road—
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

OFFERING

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Challenged to Live the God-Lived Life ... of a Disciple

- **Join us for Family Bible Hour - "4 Key Concepts"**

Time for a faith-foundation check?

Looking for answers to your questions?

Want to help others with their questions?

Our Bible Information Class offers all that and more! We start with "4 Key Concepts," move on to "Faith Builders" and, then as growing disciples, we dig deeper into what God says to us in the Bible.

Sundays at 10:30. (If Sundays don't work, let's find a time that does!)

- **Read your Bible daily** (at least 5 days a week) - Bible Reading Plans
 - *Christian Worship*, p 248ff - This Daily Lectionary (list of readings) leads the reader through most of the New Testament and about 1/3 of the Old Testament in a year. If you're reluctant to start because you'll miss some days, mark what you do read without worrying about the days.
 - *Forward in Christ* - Same readings (as above) listed for the month
 - *Forward in Christ* (ForwardInChrist.net) - new series reads through the Psalms (with commentary) over 6 months
 - *Through My Bible in 3 Years* (read or listen) - WELS.net
The Peoples Bible series in our library is an excellent resource.
- **Read (listen or watch) together a family devotion (3x per week)**
 - Meditations StJohnsLib.com
 - TimeofGrace.org WhataboutJesus.com
 - WELS.net subscriptions has a rich list of options, including ...
 - Marriage Moments at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/wels-marriages/marriagemoments/>
 - *The Peoples Bible* series in our library is an excellent resource.
 - Check out our church library for other options.
- **Set aside time to Pray Each Day** (alone and together)

Where is Sheba?

