



COMING EVENTS

What's coming up in middle school @NCC:



- **Vertical Edge :: Tuesday, January 7 • Core Groups.** We're kicking the new year off with a core group night at VE! If you don't know which core group you are in or if you are not yet in one, contact Pastor Dan ASAP!
- **Jump 6 Returns :: Monday, January 13**

January 4/5 lesson

Series: What's Church All About?
Lesson: Hope
Scripture: *Psalm 31:19-24; Romans 5:1-4*

Chew Time

Read: Luke 8:1-20



A) Psalm 31:19-24

† *19 How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world. 20 You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them. You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues.*

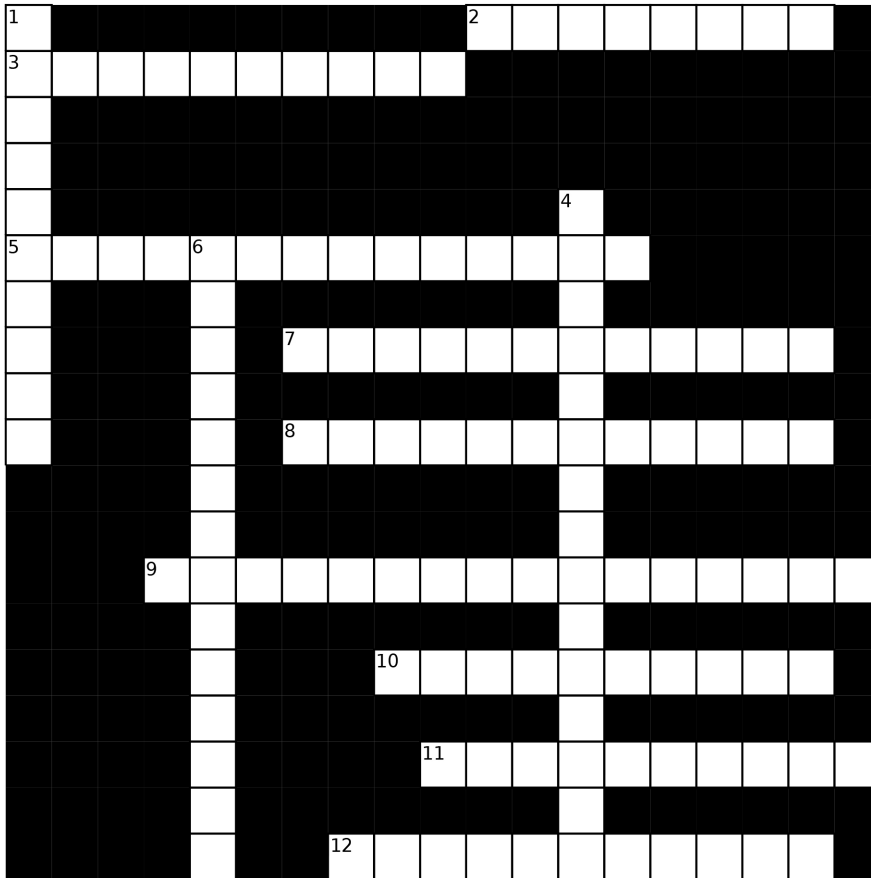
21 Praise the Lord, for he has shown me the wonders of his unfailing love. He kept me safe when my city was under attack. 22 In panic I cried out, "I am cut off from the Lord! "But you heard my cry for mercy and answered my call for help.

23 Love the Lord, all you godly ones! For the Lord protects those who are loyal to him, but he harshly punishes the arrogant. 24 So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord!

- ▶ **? think:** What are things that your parents provide for you that you never worry about? What are things that your family keeps stored?
- ▶ **? think:** According to the verses that you just read, what is it that God stores up?
- ▶ **? think:** Who is able to receive this goodness that He has stored up?
- ▶ **? think:** Has anyone ever made something up about you? How did you feel? Has anyone ever accused you of something that you may or may not have done? What was your reaction?
- ▶ What does **verse 20** say that God will do for those who are being falsely accused?
- ▶ Have you ever felt distant or separated from God? You know that He exists, but you don't feel very close to Him? **Look at v.22.** This shows how in our desperation we can all out to the Lord and be assured that He hears.
- ▶ In **verse 23** there is a command. What is it and what are the results for obeying and disobeying this command? What hope do you gain from those promises?

Crossword Time!

love



- Across
- 2 John 13:34
 - 3 1 john 3:16
 - 5 luke 10:27
 - 7 1 John 4:8
 - 8 matthew 22:37
 - 9 Joshua 22:5
 - 10 Deuteronomy 6:5
 - 11 1 John 3:1
 - 12 1 John 4:7

- Down
- 1 Romans 13:8
 - 4 1 John 4:19
 - 6 mark 12:30

► The psalm closes with assurance: the God who has made promises and who has kept them in the past will continue to do so

B) Romans 5:1-4

† ¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

- ▶ **? think:** If you play sports or an instrument in the band, what do you do to prepare yourself for competition or performances? Why do you put that much work into your activity
- ▶ **? think:** Do you ever question the amount of time that you put into sports, school, or other things that you enjoy doing? Why or why not?
- ▶ **? think:** *Reflection question:* "Am I committing myself to Jesus Christ as much as do to other activities?"
- ▶ **? think:** What are some reasons, people may not want to commit to Christ as Lord?
- ▶ **? think:** If you valued your relationship with God more than playing sports or a musical instrument, would it be easier to commit to His Lordship? What would you sacrifice to work on your relationship with Him?
- ▶ **? think:** According to the verses that you just read, what is the progression of events that leads us from suffering to hope? (*Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character hope in our salvation.*)
- ▶ **? Do** rewrite the above passage in your own words.

Closing Challenges

1. Commit to spending time reading your Bible, talking about what you are reading and praying about it so you get to know God better.
2. Commit to bringing one new person to church or youth group next month. Especially someone who doesn't go to church anywhere else.