

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 25, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:14

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir

(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 100

Sermon Joe Shuster

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation thanks Shirley West for giving a presentation at the Big Sandy communitywide Thanksgiving celebration last Sunday. Mrs. West got a standing ovation. She well represented God, herself, her family and our congregation.
2. Thank you—The congregation thanks Shirley Spearman and her family for inviting members of the congregation to their family celebration of Thanksgiving in our building last Thursday.
3. Canned goods for widows and others—After Dave Havir purchased cans of peas to give to the Agape House and directly to individuals in the community, he went back to buy more than 200 cans of peas for the congregation.
4. Welcome to our traveling speaker—The congregation welcomes Joe Shuster from the Houston area, who will be giving the sermon at the 3:00 church service. (For many months now, Dave Havir has scheduled himself for the 2:00 Bible study and then scheduled other speakers for the sermon during the 3:00 church service.)

5. Resuming Wednesday-night Bible study—Nov. 29 at 7:00.
6. Life celebration for Emma Lou Bacher—Dave Havir will be representing the congregation (while officiating) the life celebration for Emma Bacher on Dec. 2 at 11:00 a.m. (at Aria Funeral Home, 19310 Preston Rd. in Dallas).
7. East Texas Barn Dance and Chili Supper—Morris Foster and friends invite everyone to the East Texas Barn Dance and Chili Supper on Dec. 30.
8. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Thanksgiving Every Day” by Betty Foster.
9. Among Friends—This week’s article is “God Helped Elijah, He Will Help You” by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—321 headlines, two articles and three lists.

Prayer updates

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Bea Gusner** had been dealing with breathing problems and was optimistic for her scheduled appointment to see a highly recommended specialist on Nov. 29. Well, she had a couple of challenging days this week. Last Sunday, she went to an ER. Mrs. Gusner mentioned: “An X-ray revealed that there was fluid inside and outside the lung.” After getting a treatment to deal with fluid, she was discharged. On Wednesday, she went back to an ER for additional treatment—and was admitted. On Thursday, she went home. On Friday, she mentioned that she has more difficulty breathing in the mornings—so she was hoping to attend our afternoon church service to be with her friends.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Ruth Roe** had surgery on her left knee. (However, we erroneously said that she fell on Monday, Nov. 13. She did not have a new fall—this injury was from the previous fall, which we reported in the Oct. 14 bulletin.) On Friday (Nov. 17), she was transferred to Legend Oaks nursing home in Gladewater for six weeks of scheduled rehab.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Brandi West** was dealing with a kidney stone and infection. On Sunday, her family reported: “Brandi is home from the hospital. She received two stents and is on antibiotics. Her two stones will be removed in 14 days. Thank you for the prayers.”

New prayer requests

Clay and **Mindy Forrestier** request prayers for their 10-year-old son **Gavin**. On Wednesday, he went for a biopsy done on a growth behind his ear. They are waiting on results and a CT scan on the Nov. 27.

James Newsom of Brownsboro died on Nov. 17. Please remember his wife, **Tonya**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Thanksgiving—being grateful

“Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.”—*Randy Pausch*

“Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is.”—*Ernest Hemingway*

“The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for.” —*Norman Vincent Peale*

“Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.” —*Charles Dickens*

Thanksgiving—family and friends

“We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” —*John F. Kennedy*

“I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new.”—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

“For me, every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart each time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile.”—*Elie Wiesel*

“God helped Elijah, He will help you”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 25, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Since there was no Wednesday-night Bible study this week, I decided to write about the sermon that I gave last Saturday (Nov. 18)—which was simply titled “1 Kings 19:1-18.” The subject was about how God helped Elijah to overcome discouragement.

Elijah had great success

■ 1 Kings 17:1—Elijah gave a powerful message to King Ahab.

■ 1 Kings 17:8-16—Elijah watched as God continually provided food for him, a widow and her son.

■ 1 Kings 17:17-24—By the hand of Elijah, God raised the widow’s son back to life.

■ 1 Kings 18:17-19—When Elijah met with Ahab, he asked Ahab to gather the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah.

■ 1 Kings 18:20-25—Elijah proposed a public challenge between him and the other prophets.

■ 1 Kings 18:26-29—The prophets of Baal could not get a response from their gods.

■ 1 Kings 18:30-39—When Elijah called out to the God of Israel, the fire of the Lord

consumed the burnt sacrifice.

■ 1 Kings 18:40—Elijah oversaw the execution of the prophets of Baal.

■ 1 Kings 18:41-46—Elijah told Ahab about the coming arrival of the abundance of rain.

Jezebel threatened Elijah

■ 1 Kings 19:1-3—When Jezebel threatened Elijah, he ran for his life.

■ 1 Kings 18:4—When Elijah was alone, he prayed that he might die—saying, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”

Why was he depressed?

Allow me to ask some questions about the turn of events—from experiencing great success and running from the threat of Jezebel.

■ Why did Jezebel’s threat affect Elijah?

■ Didn’t Elijah have a relationship with God?

■ Wasn’t Elijah God’s messenger?

■ Was Jezebel’s threat worse than Elijah’s confrontation with hundreds of false prophets?

The difference was Elijah’s perspective. Elijah was exhausted from the stress (even positive stress) from the confrontation with the prophets of Baal. Elijah’s body, mind and emotions relaxed.

From 1 Kings 19:5-18, I want to mention seven concepts that showed how God helped Elijah.

God gave physical help

■ 1 Kings 19:5-6—After an angel gave Elijah food and drink, Elijah got some much-needed sleep.

■ 1 Kings 19:7—After an angel awoke Elijah, the angel instructed him to eat before taking a trip.

God gave emotional help

■ 1 Kings 19:8—When God instructed Elijah to walk, the trip lasted 40 days—and since I don’t believe the trip needed 40 days of fierce walking, God wanted him to enjoy a little personal time.

God heard Elijah’s complaint

■ 1 Kings 19:9—God asked him: “What are you doing here?”

■ 1 Kings 19:10—God heard Elijah complain.

God reminded Elijah of various ways He helps

■ 1 Kings 19:11-12—God works through strong wind, earthquakes, fire and a still small voice.

God heard Elijah’s complaint again

■ 1 Kings 19:13—God asked him again: “What are you doing here?”

■ 1 Kings 19:14—God heard Elijah complain.

God gave Elijah projects to do

■ 1 Kings 19:15-17—God gave Elijah three tasks.

■ Appoint Hazael to be king of Syria.

■ Appoint Jehu to be king of Israel.

■ Appoint Elisha as prophet in Elijah’s place.

God helped Elijah see the big picture

■ 1 Kings 19:18—God reminded Elijah that there were 7,000 other people who had not bowed to Baal.

Thanksgiving—more than just food

“I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage.” —*Erma Bombeck*

“I can’t cook a Thanksgiving dinner. All I can make is cold cereal and maybe toast.” —*Charlie Brown*

“We should just be thankful for being together. I think that’s what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown.” —*Marcie*