

The First Big Step Commitment

Abide and Pray

Our goal: is to Abide and Pray as a church throughout 2021/2022.

The abide part – We will hit the highpoints of every book in the Bible over the period of one year. 1 chapter a day.

The pray part – Simply include the church in your prayers. Pray for the staff, and the upcoming programs, for growth, health and faithfulness. In the next month pick a God-sized goal for Northminster that you will bring before God daily.

It's a **deep and simple** commitment.

Deep because the Word is still the Word. With Just 4 words... God set the universe in motion. If God can give birth to stars, planets, nebulae and dark matter - with just 4 of his words, what might God create, redeem or make possible in your life if you lingered in his word?

Simple because it will take no more than 10 minutes a day. Simple because many of you are already doing this and more.

This is **for everybody** who can read... or listen (there are many audible versions of the Bible – probably some for children)

**if you abide in me, and my words abide in you,
ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

- Jesus

We believe and so we Abide and Pray



Week 1

Genesis - בראשית

First book of the Torah. A book of first stories, a record of covenants and promises.
Genesis is filled with real people, living real lives, in real places.
No idealized saints in this book.

- Monday Oct 25** Creation - Gen 1:1-5, 26-31, 2:7-22
For reflection today - What does it mean to bear the image of God?
Lagniappe¹ - John 1:1
- Tuesday Oct 26** The Fall – Gen 3:1-24
For reflection today – What was lost in this chapter?
Lagniappe – Galatians 3:13
- Wednesday Oct 27** The Flood – Gen 6:1-7; 7:7-24; 8:6-11, 18-22; 9:1-16
For reflection today – When has God given you a “do-over”?
Lagniappe – Matthew 24:38-42
- Thursday Oct 28** Call + Covenant #1 – Gen 12:1-9; 13:14-18; 15:1-21
For reflection – When did you last hear from God? What did he say?
Lagniappe – John 10:27
- Friday Oct 29** Call + Covenant #2 – 17:1-8, 22:9-19; 26:1-5; 28:10-15
For reflection - What is the hardest thing God has asked you to do?
Lagniappe – Romans 8:31-32
- Saturday Oct 30** Jacob - Fear + Wrestling – Genesis 32:9-12 and 22-30
For Reflection – What have you wrestled with God about?
Lagniappe – John 14:9

¹ Lagniappe is Cajun for: a little something extra. A really great word to know. It’s pronounced: lan-yap. Kind of like a small gift, an extra shake of Tabasco in your gumbo or jambalaya, or dessert after a wonderful dinner. Lagniappe is just a little extra abiding opportunity to demonstrate how beautifully the the Old and New Testaments are woven together.

Week 2

Sunday, Oct 31 Joseph - the favored? – Gen 37:1-11, 17b-24; 39:1-4, 19-23; 41:38-43; 50:19-20
For Reflection – What adversities threaten or have threatened to define you and your future?
Lagniappe Philippians 4:11-13

John - Ἰωάννης - first half

A gospel, the last one written, “written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”² John’s gospel is so very different from the other three: No nativity. No parables. No Sermons. Instead of a birth story we get 2 pre and rebirth stories, instead of parables we get signs, instead of sermons we listen in on conversations. The central questions John concerns himself with are, “Who is Jesus?” and “Do you believe?” So, wrestle with John’s questions. Keep an eye out for “I am” sentences in John. This is how Jesus answers our question, “Who are you?”. *A little lagniappe appetizer - Ex 3:14*

Monday, Nov 1 The Beginning - John 1:1-34
For reflection - in verse 29 John the Baptist introduces Jesus to his disciples with 15 words. How, in just 1 sentence, would you describe who Jesus is to you?
Lagniappe – Gen 1:1

Tuesday Nov 2 A Conversation with an Insider – John 3:1-21 - This passage is John’s Nativity.
For Reflection –How would you describe the beginning of your faith?
Lagniappe – Ezekiel 36:27

Wednesday, Nov 3 A Conversation with an Outsider – John 4:1-42
For Reflection - When have you felt like an outsider? What would Jesus say to you in that moment?
Lagniappe – Isaiah 44:3

Thursday, Nov 4 A Conversation with the People – John 6:35-71
For Reflection - How has Jesus changed your hungers, your tastes?
Lagniappe – Nehemiah 9:15

Friday, Nov 5 A Conversation with Adversaries 1 – John 8
For Reflection – How is Jesus “light” to this woman, to you?
Lagniappe – Isaiah 49:6

Saturday, Nov 6 A Conversation with Adversaries 2 – John 10:1-21
For Reflection – When is the last time Jesus protected you from a wolf?
Lagniappe - Psalm 23 (pretty obvious choice)

² John 20:31