

## Sermon Notes

## Life Notes

## Upcoming Week

### Kingdom, Power & Glory #3: God's Test Plot January 20 & 21, 2024 Mark 4:1-20, 26-32

#### Opener:

What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?

#### Go Deeper:

1. Reflect on the different types of soil mentioned. How can we ensure our hearts are receptive soil for God's Word?
2. In verse 27, it mentions that the seed sprouts and grows day and night, regardless of whether the man sleeps or gets up. What might this aspect of continuous growth signify in the context of spiritual growth or the kingdom of God?
3. Reflect on the statement "though he does not know how" in verse 27. How does this reflect the mysterious and miraculous nature of spiritual growth and the workings of the kingdom of God?
4. What is the significance of using the mustard seed as a metaphor for the kingdom of God?

#### Live It:

1. When was the most spiritually vibrant time in your life? Why was this so?
2. In what ways can distractions and worldly concerns hinder our spiritual growth? How can we guard against them?
3. Share personal experiences of how God's Word has taken root in your life and produced fruit.
4. What do you think would make this season of your spiritual life the most fruitful and fulfilling?
5. What is God saying to you?
6. What specifically are you going to do about it this week?

#### We would love to hear your story!

If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to [hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (200-300 word limit)

#### Daily Bible Readings (January 21-27)

Sunday: Mark 5:14-20  
Monday: Psalm 103:1-5  
Tuesday: Psalm 103:6-14  
Wednesday: Psalm 103:15-22  
Thursday: Psalm 23  
Friday: Psalm 1  
Saturday: Mark 5:21-34

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar our sermon series is based on.

#### Sunday, January 21

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Worship, WC

#### 3pm U32 Jazz Concert, WC



#### Monday, January 22

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
9:30am Grandparenting Course  
12:30pm GriefShare, C4  
1:30pm Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, B7  
5:30pm Grandparenting Course

#### Tuesday, January 23

1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

#### Wednesday, January 24

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
9am-5pm VLC Council Retreat  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR  
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC  
1:30pm Women's Life Group, B7  
4pm I-HELP, C4  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC  
8pm AA Meeting, FS

#### Thursday, January 25

10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS  
4pm I-HELP, C4

#### Friday, January 26

Office Closed

#### Saturday, January 27

8am Men's Bible Study, FS  
9am Stephen Ministry Training, B7  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
FS = Fireside Room  
LR = Luther Room  
WC = Worship Center  
C4 = Community Room

#### SAVE THE DATE!

JAN 28: - New Member Class @ 12:30pm  
JAN 31: PLU Choir of the West @ 7pm  
FEB 3: Valley Chamber Chorale @ 2pm  
FEB 3 & 4: Mission & Ministry Fair  
FEB 18: Talent Show @ 3:00pm

#### Victory Lutheran Church

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
[hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com)  
480-830-5024

[VictoryLutheran.com](http://VictoryLutheran.com)



VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46

# KINGDOM POWER & GLORY



January 20 & 21, 2024

## "GOD'S TEST PLOT"

Mark 4:3-8, 26-32



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor  
Susan Westland, Chaplain

Connect with us!



## GOD TIME: A Dream to Remember

Patrick Duffy

Last summer, my wife Emilie and I were on a trip to visit Sweden, Norway and Denmark. I woke up in Stockholm, Sweden unable to swallow. Emilie purchased some cough drops to try. We were transferring to Norway that day. When we got to the hotel room my illness really kicked in. I lost all bodily function and I could neither eat or swallow for two days.

The tour director needed to move the group. That's when he called the ambulance and I was admitted to the hospital. I tested positive for Covid. The second evening in the hospital I got a call from Pastor Steve & Joanne Lien. I vaguely remember hearing Emilie say that Steve was calling to pray with me. He said the entire prayer group at Victory was praying for me. I was mostly unconscious and sleeping around the clock. I had not eaten or had a drink for 4 days. My body was starting to shut down as my kidneys were a concern to the staff.

This is when I had a dream that I was in the most glorious place with golden lights and the most peaceful place you can imagine. I experienced something so special it's difficult to put in words. I know there is something amazing waiting for us at the end of our life on earth.

When I woke up, a nurse was standing in the doorway asking, "Can I help you?" I was able to get some juice through a straw into my mouth and let it run down my throat.

I am writing this to say thank you to all the people at Victory Lutheran Church that prayed for me. I believe your prayers pulled me out of it. I do not know why God brought me back other than to spread the word that there is something special waiting for everyone! I tell this story for non-believers. If you don't believe in God, you're going to miss out!



## GATHER TIME: Estate & Planned Giving Seminar Monday, January 22, 1:30-3:00pm



SCAN ME

Presented by Victory Lutheran Church Foundation

Embark on a journey of empowerment and foresight with Victory's Estate & Planned Giving Free Seminar! Learn about the different aspects of Estate Planning and why you should plan. As you delve into the intricacies of estate planning, you'll find a multitude of compelling reasons to secure your legacy: Biblical Perspective on Estate Planning, Avoid Probate, Reduce Estate Taxes, Leave Gifts for Your Favorite Charity, Individual Consulting and much more!

Our presenter, Mark Johnson, is recognized for his expertise in estate planning and charitable gifting. He has presented numerous Estate Planning Workshops in churches around the country and has been a featured speaker at many conferences.

Don't miss this opportunity to shape your legacy and leave a lasting impact!

Register for this **FREE** seminar at the Welcome Desk, online or scan the QR code above!

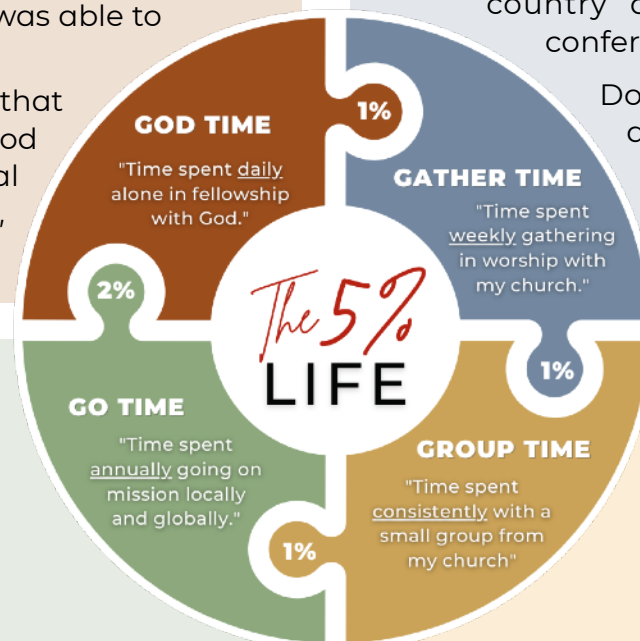
Estate & Planned Giving Seminars  
by Mark Johnson

Unlocking  
your Legacy



## GO TIME: Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA)

We were thrilled to host the local East Valley Chapter of CMA at Victory. Their motto is "Here if you need us." Thank you for sharing the love of Christ to the motorcycle community.



## GROUP TIME: New Life Group Starting Jan. 25 Andrea Hill

I live in Denver, Colorado in the summer months and enjoy Arizona over the winters. I am a hiker so have the best of both worlds. God has blessed me so much. One of the biggest blessings is joining Victory Lutheran as my home church here in Mesa.

When I heard there was a new Bible Study forming called *Ten Women of the Bible* I was eager to sign up to take the class. Then, I learned the class would only be held only once a month. For us winter visitors that means we would miss out on most of the lessons. So I prayed to our dear Lord Jesus for guidance; was it in His will to have me lead the class on a weekly basis? I am blessed and happy to say the plan was approved. **So here I am inviting anyone who is interested! Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact the church office at 480-830-5024 for more details.**

The study books are available in the church office for \$18. Our first session is at 2:00pm on Thursday, January 25th. It will be a "Meet and Greet" to get to know each other and talk about what is expected through the study. It will be at my home, which is very close to Victory. **Anyone who is interested in joining our weekly group is welcome.**

