

Sermon Notes

Daily Bible Readings (September 28-October 4)  
Sun: 1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Warning to Us  
Mon: Numbers 13:1-2 Command to Explore the Land  
Tues: Numbers 13:21-33 Observations of the Land  
Wed: Numbers 14:17-20 The Lord is Slow to Anger  
Thurs: Numbers 14:20-24 I Forgive Them  
Fri: Matthew 5:44 Love Your Enemies  
Sat: Exodus 34:6-7a God is Merciful

Life Notes

Discovering God's Plan #3:  
"Follow the Leader" — Numbers 14:1-20

Opener:  
Why do you think it is so easy for us to forget what God has brought us through and our gratitude often turns to grumbling?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)  
1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-12. What warning comes to us from this passage? How do you respond to the last verse, "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" What encouragement can you find in scripture when you start to fall?  
2. Read Genesis 12:1-3, Gen 17:8, Gen 26:2-3, Gen 35:9, Gen 48:3-4 and Numbers 13:1-2. Who do these scriptures say the Promised Land is being given to?  
3. Read Numbers 13:21-33. What did the "spies" report back after they explored the Promised Land? What was positive and what was negative about their report?  
4. Knowing that God had promised Abraham and his descendants the land, how does this promise contrast with their response of fear in entering the land expressed in Numbers 13:31-33 and Numbers 14:1-4? Read Proverbs 3:5. Were the Hebrew people trusting in the Lord or were they leaning on their own understanding of the situation?  
5. Read Numbers 14:17-20. How does God's forgiveness of the Hebrew people make you feel? Read Numbers 14:20-24. Though the people received ultimate forgiveness from God, what was their punishment for their sin?

Live It: (Applying to Our Lives)  
1. Scripture tells us that Moses prayed for the people multiple times despite their anger towards him and God. Who is in your life that you are in conflict with that you should pray to God for on their behalf?  
2. We all deserve God's wrath, yet God shows us mercy. When was the last time you showed mercy to someone? Does being merciful mean ignoring their sin? Explain your answer.  
3. Pray about what you can do this week to increase your faith and decrease your fear. What scripture can you rely on to help you with this? Can you think of someone you know who might also need these verses?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, September 28  
8:30-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Contemporary Worship, WC

Monday, September 29  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4  
3pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event  
"Harvey Girls" Slideshow Presentation, CH  
4pm Confirmation Class, C1

Tuesday, September 30  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, C5

Wednesday, October 1  
WATER & COFFEE DRIVE BEGINS!  
9-11:30am Food Pantry  
10am Men's Bible Study, C1  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
8pm AA Meeting, C5

Thursday, October 2  
9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, C1  
10am Prayer Group, B7  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, C5  
11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4

Friday, October 3  
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, October 4  
Communion Weekend  
8am Men's Bible Study, C5  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
C5 = Fireside Room  
NR = Nursery  
WC = Worship Center  
C4 = Community Room

Joining Jesus On His Mission  
Led by Pastor Denton Bennet  
Come join the adventure of joining Jesus on His mission!  
Mondays @ 10am & 6pm  
October 13-November 10  
(5 sessions)  
Light refreshments will be served.  
SIGN UP by Sept. 28!

Victory Lutheran Church  
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
hello@victorylutheran.com  
480-830-5024  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8am-4pm  
VictoryLutheran.com

VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46

Discovering God's Plan

September 27 & 28, 2025

"Follow the Leader"  
Numbers 14:1-20

THE PULSE

Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor  
Denton Bennet, Associate Pastor  
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor

Connect with us!

QR code and social media icons (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)



GOD TIME: The Transforming Power of God's Word
Read Psalm 19:7-14

In Psalm 19, David paints a beautiful picture of God's Word as something alive and active. Like the sun that brightens the sky and warms the earth, Scripture illuminates our hearts and transforms our lives from within.

David describes God's law as "perfect, refreshing the soul" and His statutes as "trustworthy, making wise the simple" (v. 7). But it's verse 11 that captures the essence of transformation: "By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

The word "warned" here isn't about condemnation—it's about loving guidance. God's Word acts like a faithful friend who gently alerts us to dangers ahead and shows us a better path. When we read Scripture with open hearts, it doesn't just inform us; it reforms us.

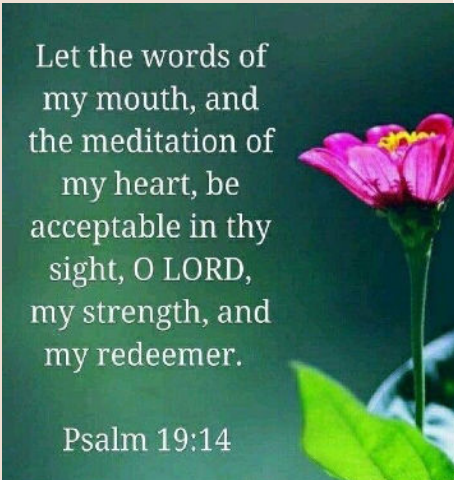
This transformation isn't merely intellectual. As we meditate on God's Word and apply its truths, something profound happens within our character. Pride softens into humility. Anxiety gives way to trust. Selfishness transforms into love. The "great reward" isn't external prosperity—it's the deep satisfaction of becoming who God created us to be.

David's prayer in verse 14 becomes our own: "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." When we consistently spend time in God's Word, allowing it to shape our thoughts and actions, we discover that the greatest treasure isn't what we gain from Scripture, but who we become through it.

Take time today to read God's Word not just for information, but for transformation.

In Christ's Service,

Handwritten signature of Pastor Renee Bennett.



Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

GATHER TIME: Welcome Heather Martinez as our new Children's Church Teacher!

We are so excited to introduce to Victory our new Children's Church leader, Heather Martinez and her beautiful family. Heather and her husband Cee have 6 children - Aaliyah aged 16, Alex age 15, Tony aged 13, Abel age 10, Alecia age 3 and Alonzo age 6 months.

Heather has been a part of the Victory family since 2021 and she was baptized last year on May 26, 2024. Heather and Cee were married February 24, 2024.



Heather has a heart for the Lord and His children. When Heather first came to Victory back in 2021 God placed on her heart a desire to teach His children. In God's perfect timing Heather has now said "yes" to His call on her life. Heather will be assisted by members of our congregation as well as alternately by her daughter, Aaliyah and her husband, Cee.

Please come Sunday, September 28 at noon to meet Heather and her family in room B7. We will be having a brief meeting with all our teacher helpers and all who are interested in assisting with our children's ministry. If you have a love for spreading the Gospel to our youngest ones please see Pastor Renee Bennett or come to this meeting on September 28th.

Children's Church will start Sunday, October 12 and new this year, we will have Children's Church available at both the 9:30am and 11:00am services! Please remember the Children's Ministry in your prayers.



GO TIME: Family Promise at Victory Sign-Ups
Host Week: October 12-19, 2025

Look for the sign-up table in the lobby. We hope you would be willing to help families that are experiencing homelessness by helping set up & take down rooms, preparing and serving meals, hosting evenings and overnights, baking, and do laundry.

If you would like to learn more about Family Promise or for additional ways that you can help, please call Kathy Michel at 480-830-5024 ext. 113 or email kmichel@victorylutheran.com.

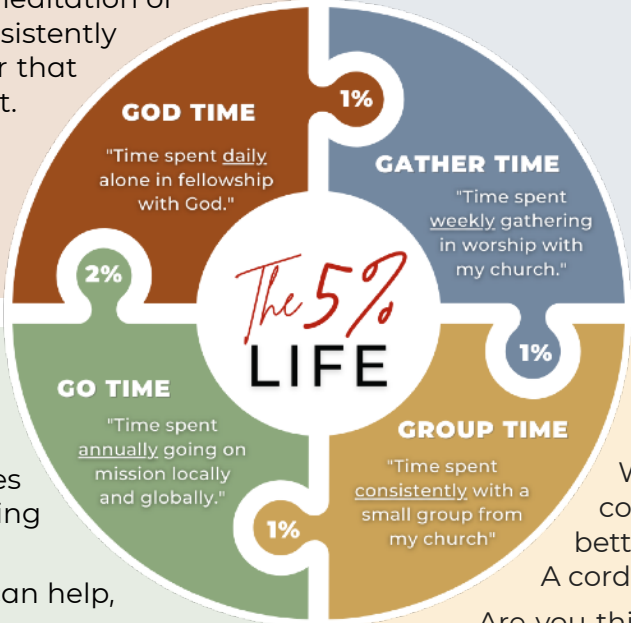
Providing unconditional hospitality is what Victory does best! Prayerfully consider participating in this local, outreach ministry. As our Lord Jesus has said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Family Promise of Greater Phoenix
familypromiseaz.org



- ITEMS ALWAYS IN NEED:
- Liquid hand soap
  - Dish soap
  - Lotion
  - New Towels
  - Twin sheet sets
  - Water bottles
  - Canned chicken
  - Ramen noodles
  - Kleenex



GROUP TIME: Small Group Weekend
October 11-12, 2025

We are better together! God designed us for community. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 reminds us: "Two are better than one... If either falls, one can help the other up... A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Are you thinking about joining a Small Group? Whether you're a winter visitor returning for the fall, a longtime Valley resident, or simply seeking connection, small groups are a powerful way to grow in faith and fellowship. Together, groups dig deeper into sermons through Life Notes in The Pulse, explore scripture, or study a Christian commentary or book. Each group chooses what to study, when, and where to meet—tailored to the needs and call of its members.



Our Fall Small Group launch will take place Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12. Stop by the Small Group table in the hallway or reach out to Pastor Renée to learn how to join or even start a group.

Already leading—or considering leading—a group? Don't miss our Small Group Leader Training on Sunday, October 12 at noon in Room B7. We'll share best practices to help groups thrive. Refreshments will be served. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Come discover the joy of community and the strength of walking in faith together!

For more information email:
Renée Bennett, Discipleship Pastor
rbennett@victorylutheran.com

