

## WORSHIP THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Aug 6 Chad (Natalia gone)

Title: **Throwing The Match**

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31; Matthew 14:13-21

There is something about the middle of the night that lends itself to magnifying our problems and concerns. There in the darkness our worries keep us from sleeping. At times, it is our own conscience that decides to do battle with us in the wee hours. Just ask Jacob. His entire past caught up with him one night and he found himself in a full-on battle with God. You may be surprised how the match turned out.

Aug 13 Natalia

Title: **Experiencing God**

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:9-18; Matthew 14:22-33

We have all wondered what it sounds like when God interacts with us. Since we are kind of short on burning bushes and pillars of fire these days, how do we know what God's voice sounds like? What does God look like or feel like? How can we be sure it's God and not just our mind? Is there a test? And if and when God speaks to us, what does God say? Both of our texts today share moments of experiencing God that give us some pretty great clues to how we experience our God who has promised to always be with us.

Aug 20 Chad

Title: **Demanding Mercy**

Scripture: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15:10-28

The woman we meet in the gospel today had no business believing that Jesus would bother to help her in her time of need. Remember that humiliated woman who snuck up behind Jesus just to reach out and touch the hem of his garment? Yeah, this is not that woman! The Canaanite woman we meet today demands a blessing. The disciples are so annoyed they ask Jesus to send her away. But Jesus sees something in this foreign woman in need, something he has been searching for. Something he wants you to have as well.

Aug 27 Natalia

Title: **Keys to the Kingdom**

Scripture: Isaiah 51:1-6; Matthew 16:13-20

There are a lot of announcements and pronouncements made in today's Gospel. Peter announces that Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus gives him the keys to the Kingdom. So strange. What does it mean that Peter says what he says and why does Jesus respond the way he does? And what does it have to do with us? (staff, check with me on this one, I'm feeling MEH about it)

Sept 3 Katie (Chad gone)

Title: **Cross Walk**

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28 (focusing on 24-25)

Our Gospel today tells us that we are called to carry the cross. If you think about the cross that Jesus

carried - it's a pretty big one. What does it mean for us to have to pick up that cross and follow Jesus? Is it as difficult as it may seem, or is there an easier way?

Sept 10 Chad (RALLY/Kick-OFF Sunday)

(Note from Katie: Blessing of Students and Teachers: Will take place of KIDS Time)

Sept 17 Natalia

Title: **As We Forgive**

Scripture: Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel today remind us just how similar we are to the disciples, when they ask Jesus just how often they are supposed to forgive someone. 7 times? Then can we stop?

Jesus lays down quite the stunning answer to this question, one that we hate and love all at the same time.

(Note from Katie: BIBLE SUNDAY: will take place of KIDS Time)