



## First Baptist Church Collinsville

*Teaching and Training Kids*

*That Rock for Jesus*

### Spring Cleaning (John 2:13-16)

Hi boys and girls. I hope you are doing well. Today, I want to talk about spring. In just a few weeks spring will arrive. You can always tell when spring is close. The weather begins to get a bit warmer. The grass become greener. The trees start to sprout leaves and people begin to get active outside—playing baseball or working in their yard or garden. But there is another sign that spring is here—people start their spring cleaning. Do your parents do spring cleaning? Mine mother did. Every year my mom would have me help her do things like flip mattresses on the beds; clean carpets, wash windows; and clean out the attic and closets. Spring is a good time to get rid of a lot of junk that you don't need.

Let me tell you a story about the time Jesus did some spring cleaning. It was time for Passover (when Jews celebrated being delivered from Egyptian bondage), so Jesus travelled to Jerusalem. When he arrived, Jesus went to the temple. He couldn't believe his eyes. There in the temple area he saw people who were selling animals for the people to use as sacrifices in the temple. There were tables set up for money changers so that people could change their money to pay their temple taxes. It looked more like a carnival than a house of worship.

Jesus was so angry that he made a whip from some rope and drove the animals and the people who were selling them out of the temple. He went to the tables of the money changers and turned them over, scattering coins all over the temple floor. To the ones who were selling the doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market." Yes, I would say that Jesus did some spring cleaning in the temple that day.

This account should cause us to think about some other things that need to be cleaned. We are entering a season called "Lent." At first, the word Lent simply referred to 'the season of spring'. But it has become much more than that. It is a time for people to look inside themselves and see if there is anything that needs to be changed. Are there some areas in your life where Jesus needs to do some spring cleaning? I know there are in mine. Why don't we take this time to ask Jesus to forgive us of anything we have done that was wrong and make us clean. I am sure Jesus will help us and we will feel better once our hearts have had a good cleaning. Thanks kids for reading this article. Remember, Jesus loves you and so do I. See you soon.

Pastor Larry

***"I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of  
God that brings salvation to everyone that believes."  
Romans 1:16***

## **A NOTE FROM Mrs. Charlotte:**

Happy March. What to expect from the Month that signals spring has arrived. I can think of a few things. Longer days, warmer temperatures, baseball games, people sitting on their porches, taking longer walks, weekend trips, fishing, garden planting, the return of beautiful flowers, dandelions, green grass, Dogwood trees, butterflies, more birds, etc. I bet you could add some to the list.

Have you ever seen a caterpillar? They are little yellow, green worms – fuzzy crawlers with antenna that wiggle and squirm on trees and on the ground. You usually see a lot of them in the fall. Some people think of them as a nuisance and want to get rid of them. You may have caught one and put him in a jar with fresh leaves to eat. Eventually, that caterpillar was no longer, as you originally saw him. There was a cocoon now in the jar. This cocoon is a house that the caterpillar lives in during the winter. It protects him from the rain and cold. In the spring, the cocoon will open and out will come a beautiful butterfly. How can this little creature help us understand something about God's world?

I remember a story in the Old Testament when God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt where they had been treated badly. They walked a long way, and they got very tired and hungry.

They immediately began to complain and wished they were back in Egypt. But, God had not forgotten them. He sent them food in a strange and wonderful way. He sent them quail every night to eat and something called manna. It was like bread. God does not forget. He provides.

The little caterpillar reminds us that God has made this earth in a beautiful and wonderful way. He did it in such a way that the earth will provide enough for everyone, as long as we take care of it. The little caterpillar is part of God's plan. Somehow, he and other caterpillars help the earth provide food and oxygen for the earth and all its creatures, including us.

So, it is not for us to go around stepping on little caterpillars and getting rid of them. Rather, it is for us to protect these little creatures because they are part of God's big plan to provide life on this planet.

Taking care of this earth is called good stewardship. God put us here, not to destroy the earth, but to pass it on to other people in good shape.

So as you look at all the beautiful butterflies this spring, think about what they originally were and what they are now.

**Thank you to those children that donated items to help the WMU ladies with their Harmony Home project for February.**

### **March Sunday School Schedule:**

- 3/7: Peter and Cornelius—Acts 10
- 3/14: Barnabas in Antioch—Acts 11
- 3/21: Jesus is Better—Hebrews 1-8
- 3/28: The Hall of Faith—Hebrews 11

### **Children's Church Schedule:**

- March 7: The Beggar Who Refused to Be Quiet
- March 14: The Night Visitor
- March 21: My Father's House
- March 28: Jesus Raises Lazarus From Death

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA FOR CHILDREN:

Parents, make sure you check out Right Now Media for great movies and lessons for children. It is free! Go to the website for the church and look under Resources. There are great bible studies for adults too!



### GIRLS IN ACTION:

Girls,

For the month of March, we will be meeting Jeremiah and Rebekah Brinkman. They are missionaries serving the Lord in New York City. New York City is home to millions of people. Busy and bustling, it is one of the largest cities in the United States. You can hear multiple languages as you travel through the city. Some people come to New York City hoping to start a new life. Visitors and people who live in New York City eat many different types of food and wear a variety of different styles of clothing. Mr. Brinkman is a Church Planter and the Regional Disaster Relief Coordinator for the COVID-19 team in the city.

Here are some other facts about Mr. Brinkman:

- When he was a child, he dreamed of being a missionary pilot and delivering medical supplies and bibles.
- He loves to fly airplanes.
- He chose to love Jesus as his aunt was driving him to visit his uncle's pig farm.
- He loves to try new foods from different countries.
- He has served as a missionary in Panama, Ghana, and East Asia.

Use your G/A book to follow along as we travel through New York City. We will start on page 5 with our missionaries of the week. Say a prayer for them as you learn about each one. We will also learn about David and Goliath, and how David defeated the giant.

Our scripture verse for March will be 1 Samuel 17:45 "David said to Goliath, 'You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But, I am coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against.'"

For fun, learn how to make a New York City hotdog from page 12 and take a tour of New York city landscapes.



**Ages 2 years—8th Grade**

**Sundays 4:00-5:00**

*We anticipate resuming Awana meetings in March. Masks will be required. Stay tuned to the FBCC Awana Facebook page to keep up-to-date.*

### Mission Friends:

**Ages 2-5 (Pre-K)**

Missions Focus : Heart

Missionaries: Jeremiah and Rebekah Brinkman

Mission Area: New York City

Concept Area: Self