

LANAKILA NEWS

SUNDAY

Ladies Ministry:
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Adult Sunday School:
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Morning Worship:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Children's Service:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Youth/Young Adult:
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bible Study:
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study:
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

AWANA:
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Men's Ministry:
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CONNECT

Website:

www.lanakilabaptist.com

Email:

Secretary@lbswarriors.org

Social Media:

"LanakilaBaptist" on:



If you would like to be a part of our Lanakila Ohana please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and drop it in the offering or at our **Welcome Desk**.



EXPERIENCING GOD: GOD PURSUES A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first a great commandment."
(Matthew 22:37-38)

As we progress through our new series, Experiencing God, we have discovered that God is always at work around us. He demonstrates His love for us by pursuing us, first to bring us back to Himself through the Lord Jesus Christ. Second, we begin to see how God works in every part of our life and how He is working in the world. Once we begin to see God at work, we then realize in a greater way His love for us and how we should love others. God's love is a fruit or evidence of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. *"When you are not living your life in the overflow of God's love for you and your love for Him, then you cannot live the Christian life as it is intended."* (William Blackaby)

There are several reasons why our love for God grows weak. It may be unconfessed sin (Proverbs 28:13), hinderances or habitual sin (Hebrews 12:1), busyness or misplaced priorities (Matthew 10:37), or we may have a bitter and unforgiving heart (Ezekiel 36:25).

Let's determine to love God above everything else in our lives. When we love God with all our heart, it will not diminish our love for others, rather it will enhance it in ways we cannot imagine. We are commanded to love God with every fiber of our being; husbands are commanded to love their wives as Christ loved the church. God's love is powerful and when we love others fervently, it covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8). Perfect or mature love expels all fear (1 John 4:18).

"Knowing and experiencing God through a real and personal relationship was exceedingly practical for people in Scripture, and I believe you'll find such a walk with God highly effective in your life as well. God can make a dramatic difference in your relationship, your home, your church, and your workplace. His involvement in your life should be visible and evident to you and those around you, like it was in the lives of countless others revealed in Scripture." (William Blackaby)

What can we learn from the tribe of Simeon?

Each of the twelve sons of Israel/Jacob received a blessing from his father just before Jacob died. The twelve sons were the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel, and the blessing contained prophetic information about the future of each tribe. In the case of the tribe of Simeon, which was paired in the prophecy with the tribe of Levi, Jacob prophesied, "Simeon and Levi are brothers, their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstrung oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel" (Genesis 49:5-7).

Jacob pronounces a curse on the anger of Simeon and Levi, for destroying the Shechemites, an act Jacob deeply resented for the way they did it and the disapproval it brought upon his entire family. Simeon's anger was evil, not because anger against sin is wrong, but because his anger resulted in cruel and inhumane acts. Righteous anger and indignation, the kind Jesus exhibited in cleansing the temple, is never characterized by cruelty. The swords of Simeon, which should have been only weapons of defense, were weapons of violence to do wrong to others, not to save themselves from wrong.

Jacob's pronouncement "I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel" came true. The tribe of Simeon was the smallest and weakest of all the tribes at the end of their wilderness journey, as noted in the second census of Moses (Numbers 26:14), and the tribe of Simeon was omitted from the blessing of Moses (Deuteronomy 33:8). Further, because of its size, the tribe of Simeon was forced to share territory with Judah, a larger and more powerful tribe (Joshua 19:1-9). Jacob did not cut the descendants of Simeon off from any part in the promised inheritance, but he did divide and scatter them.

As Christians, we learn from the tribe of Simeon that anger is the root of a lot of sin when it is allowed to boil over, resulting in a scenario in which hurts are multiplied (Proverbs 29:11). Anger leaves devastation in its wake, often with irreparable consequences. Furthermore, while anger against sin is not unwarranted, we should always be very careful to distinguish between the sinner and the sin, we should hate the sin, but love the sinner.

Jacob's statement "Let me not enter their council; let me not join their assembly" is a lesson for us as well. We should not take the counsel of an angry man because he is unstable and exhibits an inability to control his passions. When anger is a defining trait in a person's life, it indicates a lack of self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). An angry person makes a poor counselor, and their company should be avoided, especially when the sin of anger is unconfessed and there is no attempt to deal with it in a godly manner.

Finally, Simeon and Levi appeared to be inseparable brothers who are often mentioned together in Scripture, an indication that, like many brothers and sisters, they may have "brought out the worst in each other." Christian parents who see this type of relationship developing in siblings whose influence upon one another is unhealthy, should consider separating them from each other in circumstances where their unfortunate tendency to spur one another to do wrong may exert itself. – Pastor James

Lanakila Baptist School's Early Enrollment

Month of February

Please call the following campuses:

Elementary Campus at (808) 677-0731

K-3 to 5th Grade

or

High School Campus at (808) 681-3146

6th to 12th Grade



No Services

Sunday, February 16, 2025