#### First Baptist Church East End, East End University

#### One Year At-A-Glance

#### Week 1: Identity 1 Sep 24 Created in God's Image and Identity Genesis 1:26-31, 2:4-2:7

How did the world and human beings come into existence? Who created all the raw materials we see in the earth? How do we come to know our identity? Many people explore these questions. God created people as the highest form of creation. We were made in God's image, and God gave creation the role of supporting humankind.

# Week 2: Obedience 8 Sep 24 Obedience Brings Rewards Exodus 32:1-10

Frustrated and impatient because of Moses' absence, the Israelites convince Aaron to create a god they can see. Will he obey God or follow the people? Aaron complies with the people and makes a golden calf. His actions anger God, who is ready to destroy the nation.

### Week 3: Forgiveness God's Forgiveness Numbers 14:10-20

Everyone wrongs others, even those who love them and those whom they love. When we have done wrong, is forgiveness possible? According to Numbers, God forgave the rebelling people of Israel and promised to lead their descendants to the Promised Land.

# Week 4: Devotion 22 Sep 24 Our Love and Devotion for God Deuteronomy 6:1-9

During life's challenges and uncertainties, people search for a foundation on which to make decisions. What is that foundation? God instructed the Israelites that their love and devotion to Him is the basis for meeting all of life's circumstances.

Israel is to love God absolutely, and Jesus repeated these instructions to us in Matthew.

Week 5: Values 29 Sep 24
Decisions Reflect Our Values
Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24

At critical junctures in life, people are forced to make life-changing decisions. How do they decide which path to take? We are to lean on our Christian values. When challenged by Joshua to serve God or other gods, the Israelites chose to love and serve God.

# Week 6: Partnership Godly Partnership Brings Victory Judges 4:1-10

People called to be leaders might doubt their capabilities. How do leaders deal with their doubts? Godly partnerships can help us overcome insecurities and win the victory! Barak willingly went into battle after the prophetess Deborah agreed to accompany him.

#### Week 7: Compassion 13 Oct 24 A Covenant of Compassion Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18

When bonded by love and strong compassion towards one another, people who are unrelated by birth can commit to entering a covenant relationship. What drives and sustains this relationship? Although Naomi begged Ruth to return to her people, Ruth clung to her mother-in-law and vowed her loyalty until death.

# Week 8: Friendship The Bond of Friendship 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7

Sometimes, we are challenged to compromise our loyalty to a beloved authority figure to keep a promise made to a trusted friend. Whom does one choose? Jonathan chose to keep his promise to love and protect his friend David despite his father's insane hatred of David.

# Week 9: Boldness 27 Oct 24 Boldness to Stand Courageously in God's Providence

#### 1 Kings 18:5-18

People like to go their way until faced with crises beyond their control. How shall we respond to the advice of those with great wisdom and insight? In 1 Kings, God sent Elijah to stand before the people and boldly warn of impending disaster.

#### Week 10: Thanksgiving 3 Nov 24 A Heart Filled with Thanksgiving 1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 28-36

People easily get discouraged when looking at turbulent conditions in the world. How can we find the courage to face these problems? David's people sang a psalm of thanksgiving and a psalm of worship to God for all the great things God had done for them and for the greatness of God's being.

# Week 11: Collective Redemption 10 Nov 24 Collective Redemption for God's People Ezra 6:1-12

Sometimes, we are so focused on the adverse situations in our communities that we forget to seek guidance from the Lord. Why do we act and speak according to our situations rather than seeking liberation from them? Ezra shows us that God's redemptive purpose is to restore our communities and nations. Collective redemption of everything around us starts when we recognize and confess our failings. Then, God is ready to listen and support us in unexpected ways.

#### Week 12: Personal Redemption 17 Nov 24 God's Plan for Our Personal Redemption Job 42:1-10

People often wonder who or what controls the outcomes of their life's many challenges. Job declared that God can do all things and will ultimately prevail over all obstacles. God plans to redeem us personally as we remain faithful.

#### Week 13: Worship 24 Nov 24 Worship the Lord Psalm 148

We think that nature exists for our benefit alone. Yet, God created the world for another purpose. Creation and everything in it was made to worship the Lord. The psalmist commands every element of creation to join the chorus of praise for all that God has created.

## Week 14: Wisdom 1 Dec 24 Wisdom for Righteousness Proverbs 3:1-12

When we choose to obey God, He grants us wisdom. Proverbs 3 describes wisdom as a value that protects and brings well-being. Trusting in God's wisdom and guidance helps develop strong faith and offers purpose and meaning in life.

#### Week 15: Divine Timing 8 Dec 24 Sowing & Reaping in God's Divine Timing Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, 14–15

Ecclesiastes teaches us that God's divine timing is important. God has a declared season for everything under the sun, including our lives. King Solomon, the teacher, wants us to know that the secret to our peace is with God.

#### Week 16: Intimacy 15 Dec 24 A Tradition of Intimacy and Love Song of Solomon 4:8-5:1a

Solomon expresses his intimate feelings of love for his bride. He cherishes her love. While traditional interpretations see this book as an allegory of the relationship between God and Israel and Christ and the church, people today can find encouragement in these words as they contemplate love, commitment, and intimacy.

### Week 17: Salvation 22 Dec 24 Salvation in Jesus Foretold Isaiah 49:1-11

Individuals and nations aspire to accomplish great things even amid significant challenges. How can we make a difference? God the Creator covenants with us to save us—even when we don't realize it—for a higher purpose and important mission.

### Week 18: Courage 29 Dec 24 Lessons on Courage from Jeremiah Jeremiah 38:14-23

No one wants to be the bearer of bad news or challenging advice. How can we find the courage to speak when what we have to say is likely to cause controversy or hard feelings? Jeremiah frankly discussed his concerns with King Zedekiah and then confidently said he was delivering a message from God.

### Week 19: Suffering 5 Jan 25 A Cry for Restoration Amid Suffering Lamentations 5:1-22

People seek restoration when their possessions are taken, or their relationships are broken. How does one cope with the suffering and loss of that which is significant? While suffering, the writer of Lamentations trusted that God would re-establish a relationship with Israel.

#### Week 20: Temptation 12 Jan 25 Ezekiel's Wisdom for Dealing with Temptation Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32

It is easy to blame our background or upbringing for our misfortunes. What is the role of personal responsibility? Ezekiel warns Israel that each person will face temptations and will answer for their behavior. All must repent of their sinful ways and obey God's commands to find favor with God.

# Week 21: Confession 19 Jan 25 Daniel's Prayer of Confession on Behalf of the People Daniel 9:1-7, 17-19

Have you ever been overwhelmed by grief? Daniel was so overcome by grief over the devastation of Jerusalem and the exile of his people that he made intercession and confession on their behalf for their sin against God.

#### Week 22: Commitment 26 Jan 25 God's Commitment to An Unfaithful Bride Hosea 1:1-11

Unfaithfulness in covenant relationships leads to brokenness and alienation. How can brokenness

and alienation be remedied? We have to commit to seek God's wisdom in brokenness. God uses Hosea and Gomer's marriage and the naming of their children as symbolic of Israel's alienation from God and His restorative plan.

#### Week 23: Reconciliation 2 Feb 25 God's Love Brings Reconciliation Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32

The rewards garnered from wholesome relationships may be shattered by unloving and unfaithful actions. How can these relationships be restored to their former glory? Joel recounts the benefits that emanate from a restored relationship with God. This theme is revisited in the New Testament as we are reminded of a loving and forgiving God who seeks to reconcile us to Christ.

# Week 24: Generosity 9 Feb 25 God's Generosity Overcomes Selfishness Amos 6:4-8, 11-14

Some people care only about accumulating lavish possessions for themselves and care nothing for those who possess little. What happens to greedy and selfish people? God will dispossess the greedy and selfish and thus demonstrate His justice. Generosity will protect us.

#### Week 25: Mercy 16 Feb 25 God's Mercy to Do the Right Thing Ionah 3:1-10

Change is often required in life if we want to live in peace with others. What can we do about life situations that threaten us? We can seek God's mercy. After hearing God's warning from Jonah, the people of Nineveh repented and sought God's mercy, and God forgave their sins.

#### Week 26: Leadership 23 Feb 25 Godly Leadership Micah 3:1-3, 9-12, 6:6-8

Leaders often struggle with expectations of being examples of justice. How can leaders become models of justice worthy of emulation? Micah confronts the leadership of Israel for their failure to pursue justice and suggests that doing justice should be the basis of their lives.

# Week 27: Justice 2 Mar 25 Justice Triumphs Over Injustice Habakkuk 2:6–14

People seem not to suffer for their unjust actions. When will acts of the unjust be punished? The psalmist affirms that the Lord is a God of Justice! God will reward the just, and Habakkuk declares that the unjust will be punished for wickedness.

#### Week 28: Restoration 9 Mar 25 A Vision of Restoration Zephaniah 3:14-20

Oppression of the poor and powerless seems pervasive in our world. Is there any hope for a reversal of this condition? The prophet Zephaniah proclaims the day of restoration when God's people will return to righteousness, justice, and peace.

#### Week 29: Repentance 16 Mar 25 Repentance Brings Transformation Haggai 1:2-14

God sent the prophet Haggai with a message to Zerubbabel and the people. Haggai scolded the people for not finishing the work of rebuilding the Temple. He challenged the people to examine their lives and motives for not completing the rebuilding project. Haggai told the people that the Lord commanded them to continue the work. In his prophetic soundings, Haggai showed the people they were to blame for not finishing the Temple. The text tells us that the people repented and obeyed the words of the Lord spoken through Haggai. Their repentance and obedience led Haggai to assure the people of God's presence. This assurance was the catalyst the people needed to rebuild the house.

# Week 30: Responsibility 23 Mar 25 Our Responsibility for Peace and Justice to Reign Zechariah 8:1-8, 11-17

What is our responsibility to address evil conditions in the world? Often, a sense of hope-

lessness, regret, and doom can seem like the correct response. However, the prophet Zechariah delivers God's promise of a new world of peace and prosperity for God's people. We are responsible for sharing the message of God's peace and that His justice will reign on the earth.

#### Week 31: Accountability 30 Mar 25 Accountability for Leading Justly Malachi 2:1-9, 3:5-6

Just leaders act honorably toward constituents. Malachi admonishes the priests to turn from their wickedness, revere God, and reap a rich harvest for promoting godly justice. We must keep our leaders accountable to godly standards.

# Week 32: Blessing 6 Apr 25 Jesus Teaches About the Right Attitudes that Bring Blessings Matthew 5:1-12

Our attitudes determine how we view circumstances in our lives. How can our attitudes bring blessings? Jesus' Beatitudes taught the crowd and His disciples those heartfelt values that bring long-term benefits.

### Week 33: Healing 13 Apr 25 Jesus' Power for Healing Mark 2:1-12

The limitations of human existence make genuine wholeness an elusive goal. Where can we find true healing? By declaring a paralyzed man's sins forgiven and restoring his physical health, Jesus demonstrated that God had called Jesus to heal infirmities of the soul as well as the body.

#### Week 34: Resurrection 20 Apr 25 Resurrection Power! Luke 24:1–12, 30–35

People often question the promises of their leaders. How can they come to have assurance amid doubt? For Christians, we must look to Christ's resurrection power! The risen Christ kept His promises by making Himself known to His disciples.

### Week 35: Faith 27 Apr 25 Faith in the Word of God John 1:1-14

People are often curious about how the world and human life began. How do we understand the origins of life? It takes our faith in the Word of God. John explains that the world began with the Word, Jesus, who is God's creating and redeeming agent in the world.

### Week 36: Holy Spirit 4 May 25 The Holy Spirit is Good News for All Acts 10:34-47

Barriers often keep people from becoming part of particular groups. How are the barriers removed? God reveals to Peter that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all, and the power of the Holy Spirit is God's gift to everyone who accepts Christ.

#### Week 37: Freedom 11 May 25 Freedom in the Holy Spirit Romans 8:18–30

Living in the world, we sometimes suffer because of evildoers. Where can we find inspiration to hope for God's freedom in our future? God promises to bring good out of our suffering and give us a blessed future.

### Week 38: Love 18 May 25 Divine Love 1 Corinthians 13

Special gifts such as knowledge and wisdom can easily make us lose sight of our obligations to others. How can we avoid being pleased with ourselves? Paul suggests the divine love of God working in us is the best way to relate to others and

#### Week 39: Hope 25 May 25 Eternal Hope 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

forget one's status.

People fear the fragility of life and the meaning of death. In weakness and death, where can hope be found? Hope is guaranteed by the Spirit as a gift from God, given to believers in Jesus Christ.

### Week 40: Sanctification 1 Jun 25 The Fruit of the Spirit for Sanctification Galatians 5:16-26

In the world, many opposing forces influence our lives. When we feel conflicted, what can we do? Paul reminds us that choosing to live a sanctified life in Christ requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit. A life guided by the Spirit will result in good fruit.

# Week 41: Unity 8 Jun 25 Unity is a Gift in the Body of Christ Ephesians 4:1–16

When Christ conquered sin and death by descending into the grave, rising from the dead, and ascending into heaven, He gave different spiritual gifts to build up the church in unity and maturity. Each of us was given the right amount of grace and gifts we would need to build up the church the way God desires. How are you using your spiritual gifts? We must unite with Christ and our fellow Christian believers while using our gifts to promote the church's growth in love.

#### Week 42: Surrender 15 Jun 25 Surrender Everything to Christ Philippians 3:7-14

People strive to enhance their standing before others by calling attention to their abilities and honors. What is the proper attitude toward our accomplishments? Paul tells the Philippians that we are to surrender everything to Christ. Our accomplishments are nothing compared to the greater goal of gaining and being found in Christ.

### Week 43: Righteousness The Way to Righteousness Colossians 3:1-3, 5-17

Christians must put aside sinful behavior and live as new creations in Christ. The way to living fully in the righteousness of God is to practice love, which produces harmony and thus allows the peace of Christ to rule in the hearts of Christians. Paul teaches this love will cause us to forgive each other, as Jesus Christ has forgiven us, and to live with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

### Week 44: Perseverance 29 Jun 25 Perseverance In Faith 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

How do we avoid falling for deceptive teachings? Paul urged the church to remain firm in what they had been taught about salvation through Jesus Christ. He encouraged the Thessalonians to be thankful for being chosen and called by God for salvation. We must persevere in faith, believing that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and empowers Christians for service and that eternal comfort and good hope are available in Christ.

#### Week 45: Faithfulness 6 Jul 25 The Fight for Faithfulness 1 Timothy 6:11-21

When presented with contradictory advice, which is the best to follow? Paul charged Timothy to embrace faithfulness to God. The fight for faithfulness calls us to adopt certain attitudes and actions while avoiding others in order to strengthen our faith.

#### Week 46: Truth 13 Jul 25 Live and Teach the Truth Titus 2

Paul teaches Titus that leaders in the church need to teach and live by God's truth. Paul expresses concern that leaders in God's church do their job well—and walk worthy of their calling. He advises Titus regarding his responsibility as overseer of the churches on the island of Crete. Paul promotes right living in the church by teaching that God expects self-control as well as spiritual and moral fitness from His called-out ones.

### Week 47: Discipline 20 Jul 25 The Gift of Discipline for Discipleship Hebrews 12:1–13

The book of Hebrews gives us examples of faithful servants of God. The writer then tells us to discipline ourselves to imitate not just their example; we must follow the example of our Lord.

#### Week 48: Patience 27 Jul 25 Wait with Patience for Wisdom James 3:13-18, 5:7-12

Throughout history, many have risked their lives

by resisting oppressive regimes, thus saving the lives of others. When do we risk our lives to defy evil and choose to act for the good of strangers? It requires patience. James compares and contrasts the consequences of using wisdom for righteousness or evil. When we patiently seek God, the Lord always provides the necessary wisdom.

#### Week 49: Joy 3 Aug 25 Joy in the Midst of Trials 1 Peter 4:12–19

Life tests us in many ways. How will we respond to the trials and sufferings that come our way? Peter believed that those who suffer as Christians should rejoice as they follow Christ, even as the apostles did when they were arrested for teaching people about Jesus. Joy is a Christian's response when they suffer for the sake of the Gospel.

### Week 50: Assurance 10 Aug 25 Assurance to Believe God's Love 1 John 4:13-5:5

Community is built on unity and mutuality. What holds the members of a community together? The writer of 1 John says believers are complete as a community when they abide in assurance of God's love, and the Spirit of God's love abides in them.

#### Week 51: Discernment 17 Aug 25 Discernment to Remain Steadfast in Faith Jude 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13, 16-23

We need discernment for our lives, churches, and world. Jude warns believers against those who deny that Jesus Christ is Lord and Master. Leaning into the gift of God's discernment, we can remain steadfast in faith against those who preach immoral practices.

#### Week 52: Eternal Life 24 Aug 25 Eternal Life in the Alpha and Omega Revelation 22:12–21

People recognize that all things have a beginning and an end. What is the source and final purpose of human life? The book of Revelation affirms that God, the Alpha and Omega, controls everything.