



Jesus Dojo

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. -Jesus

Growing up I always loved ninjas. I loved Bruce Lee movies. Maybe some of you have even seen some of the pictures of me in a ninja turtle costume that are floating out there. What is our fascination with ninjas? I think part of it is we love how disciplined they are. They have a strong moral code and no matter how acrobating they look, they always seem to be in control. So if everybody loves them, how come there are so few of them?

The answer is that ninjas don't become ninjas overnight. They work at their craft and train extremely hard. The place where they train to become ninjas is called a dojo. Now if you went into a dojo let me tell you what you wouldn't see. You wouldn't see the instructor have them sit on the mat and tell them how to be a ninja with them writing down their notes and after that call it a day. What you would see is the instructor showing them how they do it and then they do it.

Unfortunately our churches can tend to look like someone teaching us and we write it down and call it a day. That's not how Jesus did it though. He taught his disciples to watch him and then He told them to do what He did. He sent out the 72 to do what He had been doing, and when they complained about there not being enough food for everyone He said, "You feed them."

Pastor Francis Chan compares it to the game of Simon Says. When Jesus says to do something He isn't as interested in whether we memorize His instruction as He is that we do it. The wise man is not the one who hears the word, but the one who hears the word and puts it into practice, He says.

In Teens we are experimenting with this. We are taking things the Bible says and we are learning about it while putting it into practice. We are calling it Jesus Dojo, because we are learning by practicing, not just in a classroom. Last month we broke up into groups and did random acts of kindness around town. My group bought a McDonald's meal for someone and that person started telling us about their life. I think the kids learned more in that one interaction than in most of my sermons. We have things planned for the upcoming months to continue becoming Jesus ninjas.

So how about you? Did you do anything in the last week because Jesus told you to? Are you just reading your Bible to cross it off the list? Are you just listening to Sunday sermons or are you living them? I encourage you to take the challenge this week. Pick one thing that you heard in a sermon or read in the Bible and practice it. Welcome to the Jesus dojo.

Mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.
Pastor Seth



When: Thursdays
Time: 6:30-8pm
Where: Room 200
Questions: Contact Steve & Priscilla Schrock at 285-3400.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Are you struggling with the recent loss of a loved one during the holidays? Join others on Saturday, November 17, at 9am for encouragement and help. Brunch will be provided.



Waffles & Widows

Join Tucky Dill and other widowed ladies for a time of encouragement and fellowship.

When: Friday, November 2
Time: 9-11:30am
Where: Gym

Please call Tucky at 218.742.6040 if you have any questions.



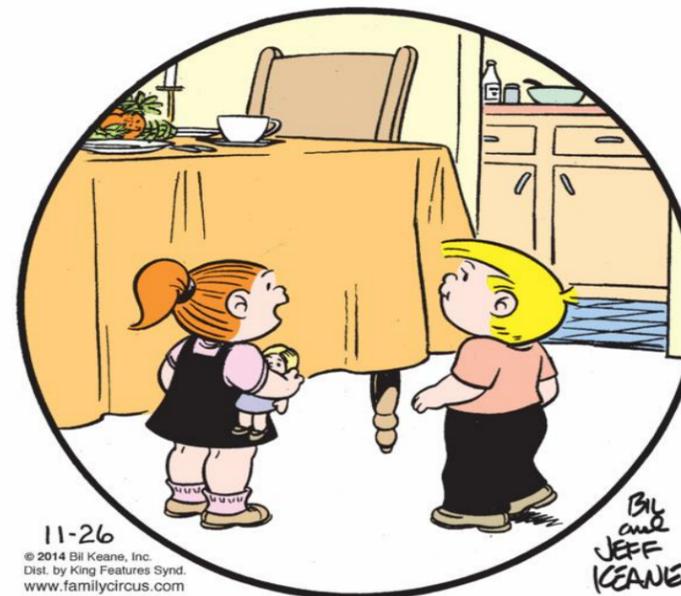
What: Supper (no meal on 11.21)

Cost: Free!

When: Wednesdays

Time: 5:15-5:45pm

Who: Awana clubbers & their families and all of our Awana volunteers.



11-26
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BIL AND JEFF KEANE

"You can tell Thanksgiving isn't like a regular dinner 'cause the table gets to be dressed up too."

Awana Families!

Join us on Wednesday, November 21, at 6pm for a time of Bingo!

We will also be enjoying some yummy pie.



Women
Growing
Together

We will be having a time of sharing about how mentors have impacted us. You will have an opportunity to share your story or come, sit, and be blessed by others' stories.

Monday • November 19 • 6:30pm • gym

Sunday LIFT • 9am • Gym

This class is for everyone!

Nov 4 — Breakfast with Jesus
Nov 11 — Jesus Feeds Us
Nov 18 — Food Drive Sunday
Nov 25 — THANKS-giving

Join us & explore Scripture through stories of food. Both the Old & New Testament focus on what God provides and how to share those provisions. Everything comes together in the last session as we gather around the table and offer gratitude to God through a THANKS-giving celebration.



Reading Schedule

November



New Testament		Old Testament	
▶ JOHN	▶ 2 PETER	▶ JOB	▶ EZEKIEL
1. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:37-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3
2. <input type="checkbox"/> 7:45-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:12-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-8
3. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-12
4. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:12-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:10-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-15
5. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:21-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:17-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 16
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:31-47	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-19
7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8:48-59	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:10-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 20-21
	▶ 1 JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-23
8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:1-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 24-26
9. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:13-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 1:5-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:21-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28
10. <input type="checkbox"/> 9:26-41	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 29-30
11. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:12-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-32
12. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:11-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:18-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 33-34
13. <input type="checkbox"/> 10:22-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 2:24-29	<input type="checkbox"/> 13	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-37
14. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 14	<input type="checkbox"/> 38-39
15. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:17-37	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:11-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:1-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 40-41
16. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:38-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 3:19-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 15:17-35	<input type="checkbox"/> 42-44
17. <input type="checkbox"/> 11:45-57	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-47
18. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 4:7-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 48
19. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:12-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:1-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	▶ DANIEL
20. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:20-36	<input type="checkbox"/> 5:13-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
21. <input type="checkbox"/> 12:37-50	▶ 2 JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
22. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:1-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:1-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
23. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:12-17	▶ 3 JOHN	<input type="checkbox"/> 21:22-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
24. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:18-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-12
25. <input type="checkbox"/> 13:31-38	▶ JUDE		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-7		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8-16		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-25		

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Attitude of Gratitude

The Bible tells us to “Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with Praise.” (Psalm 100:1). Gratitude is a characteristic of God’s people. Now you would think that thanksgiving would be easy for God’s people, especially when we are living in such plenty. Even the poorest of America’s and Canada’s citizens are wealthier than most of the world’s population. We are surrounded with abundance.

And yet, don’t we often see grumbling and ingratitude? Sometimes it becomes pervasive. There are some days when I am surrounded by negativity and ungratefulness. On those days, it can be hard to be thankful.

And there are days when circumstances don’t go well. We can all find it easier to complain when the hassles, the pressures and disappointments of life come along. A few years ago, I had a serious sinus infection. While this may not be as serious as heart disease or cancer, for me, who had never been sick, it was a big deal. I found it very hard to be grateful to God for his blessings.

You may have experienced those times as well. Or maybe you just don’t take the time to be thankful in every situation. I’d like to share with you something that you may find helpful. It’s something our family has done on those times when we are not entering into God’s presence with thanksgiving. We call it the Thankful Game. It is a great practice because you can play it anytime, anywhere with anybody. It is a healthy game because it helps us to stop taking the good things in life for granted and instead it encourages us to start developing an attitude of gratitude. This is how it has worked in our lives: sometimes when we are on a walk, my wife will ask me “What are three things that you are thankful for?” To be honest, sometimes I have to stop and do some hard thinking because I find it all too easy to take the blessings in my life for granted.

The Thankful Game is a great family game. Kids can play it as well as adults. This summer, we had the chance to spend some time in the car with our six year old grandson, Andrew. We started playing the Thankful Game. Andrew really got into the spirit of the game, so much so that he didn’t stop coming up with things he was truly thankful for. The side benefit for us was that Andrew was a happier boy when he got to our house simply because of that attitude of gratitude he had worked on during our drive.

This November, as we enter into an upcoming time of Thanksgiving, I challenge all of us to find things we are grateful for each and every day. Even if you are going through deep waters now, I invite you to find ways to thank God. You don’t have to thank Him for the deep waters, but you could thank Him for the promise of his presence in the depths.

“...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thess. 5:18

In His Grip,
Pastor Dan