



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXXIII July 2, 2017 No. 24

**Confidence
Corner
John F. Board**

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we will examine some contrasts between the two times God allowed spies to go into the land He promised to give the Israelites. I hope that in doing so, we can learn

some of the lessons God may have intended from His preservation and revelation of these Old Testament events.

When the spies go into the land in Joshua they are neither named nor given specific credentials, unlike in Numbers 13. I think a close study of Numbers 13 and the names mentioned provides a sense in which the people should have trusted God to do as He had said (deliver the land to them).

Secondly, the spies, in their report, say or do nothing to assure Joshua that the task will succeed. In Numbers when they first have an opportunity to enter the land, their reliance was not on God.

How very different was the report of the spies who were sent to look over Jericho! They had said, 'Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands' (2:24). Their confidence then was in God. I'm not certain all of the elements that provide this confidence, but it was something that was very good.

It is interesting though to note how quickly the Israelites forget that their confidence is in God. The Israelites, however, were brimming over with self-confidence and were inflated with pride at the victory at Jericho. They contemptuously regarded Ai as easy prey. 'The people of Ai are few,' they said. And just as when they placed their full trust in God, God provided them victory, when they began to trust in themselves they were defeated. We can learn from this and regard the inspired instruction in Proverbs 3:5-6.

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Elizabethtown Church of Christ Live Righteous Youth Rally

Devoted

Acts 2:42-47

July 28-29, 2017

**Keynote Speaker:
Matt Cook (Henderson, TN)**

**Class Teachers:
Nathan Ferguson (Franklin, KY)
Spencer Clark (Louisville, KY)
Nick Secula (Smiths Grove, KY)**

**Registration Times:
Friday @ 6:30 p.m.
Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Please RSVP by July 1 at 270-765-6446
or call for more information.**

Limited Housing Available

Sunday's Sermons:

**A.M. — Wonderful Grace of Jesus
John 1:14-18**

**P.M. — A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:1-2**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is that time of year again—we are in the middle of our VBS. I love seeing the faces of the little ones as they learn about God through song and instruction. It seems where in times past the little ones might not know exactly how to take me, during VBS they seem to open up just a little.

VBS is a time that reminds me of Jesus' love for little children! We sing songs like "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves The Little Children" and as I see them sing along I too love these little ones dearly. Sure some of the little ones can be challenging at times, but we see pure hearts waiting to be molded to love Jesus more!

I wanted to also take a moment to thank all of those who are teaching this year! What a great gift they are giving to the little ones. Many have stepped out of their comfort zones and stepped up to teach large classes. I am rotating my 5-8th grade class into the younger classes as helpers. They can still learn a great deal by being in the classroom, but they also get a chance to see what it is like from the teacher's perspective; hopefully this will create a greater desire to be an active participant in the classroom when they are the students.

This year we are using the theme: God's Team: Stories of God's Power. On Monday we looked at the day God made the sun stand still and yesterday we studied regarding Gideon, Midian, and God. Today we will look at the time when God gave life to a little boy through His prophet Elisha. Tomorrow we will conclude our VBS by examining the account of Jesus healing a man's hand.

Throughout we have been stressing the power of God. God was with the individuals He utilized to accomplish great things in His plan. God still has a plan today—He has a work He needs us to accomplish. That work is the work of taking the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

When we learn that when God was with others He helped them accomplish tasks that seemed near impossible, we begin to gain confidence as we face the task of reaching a world that has turned so far from God. Remember though, our current state is not as bad as many times previous in our world's history. We even see the early Church facing a world that had turned even further from God (see Romans 1-3).

Many of you were not able to attend VBS due to work commitments. That is understandable since we held our VBS this year during the day. Yet I hope that you might think about this theme in your private study! Be amazed at the power of God and what He accomplishes when we are faithful to do the task before us. May God help us as a congregation to grow spiritually. May God help us in our spiritual growth to be greater "players" on His team. May God provide the increase as we are faithful to the task He has asked us to fulfill that He may be glorified!

*John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY*