

Fall 2017 - “God Unboxed!”

Jeremiah 2:13 (NIV84) ¹³“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

Date	Passages	Title	Focus	Speaker
Sept 10/17			Regenerate	Mike Mileski
Sept 17/17	Job 38:1-41; 40:1-5; 42:1-6	God Unboxed!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 17:3 tells us that to have eternal life means that we know God. But ‘knowing’ God in relationship is not the same as having accurate knowledge of Him and His character. • Is it possible that I am like the Jews of Jesus’ day who “had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge”? Rom. 10:2 • How difficult it is for the finite to understand the infinite. • Have we put God in a box? The most important thing about us is what we believe about God. • May God ‘unbox’ Himself! 	Ron Seabrooke
Sept 24/17	Proverbs 27:19	Unboxed life?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I look at my life, what consumes me? What are my dreams and goals? What takes my resources and energy? What do I love to do? • How does all this reflect our hearts? • Aim is to lead people to be ready and open to ask: “How does my life reflect the God we are going to learn about?” 	Matt Robinson
Oct 1/17	Genesis 1	The Good God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is God good? Or is God not good? How do I know? Why did He create, was He lacking? What have we replaced the good God with? How does the world think about this “Good God”? How does the world act because of their thinking about this “Good God”? What about me? Do I think and act differently than the world? How should the fact that God is a “Good God” impact me today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Now however good that gift was, hopefully you know that it wasn’t as amazing as the human being who gave it to you.” • God is love. Perfect Joyful love. He didn’t need to BUT He created us so we could share in His love. • God is the Giver and the Maker of gifts. • Passages focused on in small groups: Gen. 1:27-31, Psalms 19:1-10 	Gary Goodkey

Thanksgiving				
Oct 8/17	Genesis 2 & 3	Trustworthy God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God trustworthy? Or does he have ulterior motives? Is God waiting to pounce and punish us? Does God even care? Did God create me and then abandon me to my own devices? Did God trick me by putting us in the garden with a trap? How does the world view “God’s trustworthiness”? How do their actions reflect their trust in Him? What about me? Do I trust God to be trustworthy? Do I act like He is trustworthy? How should the fact that God is a “Trustworthy God” impact us today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating of the tree = “I don’t trust you. I know better. Get out of my life.” • Sin is putting anything or anyone in God’s place. • Guilty people hide. BUT God comes and calls. “I know! Yes there are consequences BUT come.” • Passages focused on in small groups: Gen 3:1-6; Romans 1:18-25 	Ron Seabrooke
Oct 15/17	Genesis 12	The Generous God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God a “Generous God”? Or does God only give with conditions? Do I have to attain His standards to experience His generosity? What if I fail Him? How does the world view God’s generosity? How does the world’s attitudes and actions reflect their view of God’s generosity? What about me? Can I accept that God is generous to me just because that is who He is? Or do I try to prove I am worth His generosity? How should the fact that God is a “Generous God” impact us today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does God say “I will” or “You must”? Is God demanding or generous? • God and Abraham – 7 promises with the result of “All people will be blessed.” • Other gods are demanding. They don’t help. They make me work and strive. • When I work I feel “entitlement”. When God is generous I feel “blessed.” • Passages focused on in small group: Gen 12:1-3; Luke 19:1-10 	David Marsh

Oct 22/17	Exodus 12	The Liberating God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God a “Liberating God”? Does He desire to and/or have the power to liberate me? Do I know I need liberation? <u>Do I want liberation?</u> Where does the world look to for liberation? Or who does the world look to for liberation? Where do I, as a follower of Jesus, look to or who do I look to for liberation? How does the fact that God is a “Liberating God” impact me today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a slave to sin. Sin is anything I put before God. • Sin is Addictive. I try to stop BUT I can’t. I don’t even know I am addicted until I try to stop. • What are my “If only....”? What longing of my heart do I feel will set me free? These are my Sin and addictions. These are my Pharaohs. (Israel looking back and longing for...) • Passover lamb – “What if God gave Himself to set you free?” • Matthew 11:28-29 Description of me. Labor, heavy laden. Description of liberation that Jesus offered. Rest, learn, lowly, gentle, light. Jesus says “Come.” “Take my yoke”. • Passages focused on in small groups: Ex. 3:7-10; Matt. 11:27-29 	Matt Robinson
Oct 29/17	John 4	The Fulfilling God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God a “Fulfilling God”? Does He really meet our inner needs and desires? How? Where does the world look for fulfillment? Am I, “a follower of Jesus” any different? Do I see myself as an idolater, an adulterer or an adulteress, a prostitute, if I am trying to find fulfillment in any other way than God’s way? Do I see that the “Spring of Living Water” became thirsty for me (John 19:28)? How does the fact that God is a “Liberating God” impact me today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have more of everything BUT we have more divorce, depression, burnout, stress related illness and suicide. More of everything except fulfillment. • Because we don’t trust God! We are serial adulterers. (Jeremiah 2:13) • Passages focused on in small groups: John 6:14; Luke 15:14-32 	Jeff Martin

Nov 5/17	1 Corinthians 15	The Life Giving God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God a “Life Giving God”? Can I have blood pumping through my body and still be dead? What is “Life”? What is “Death”? What is God’s definition of these two words? What is the world’s definition of these two words? What is my definition, as a follower of Jesus, of these two words? Is there a difference? How does the fact that God is a “Life Giving God” impact us today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone dies. Most die more than once. Power, approval, comfort, control – “Little gods” do make you feel alive briefly. But when I don’t measure up to my god, I die. • Does my god have an answer for death? If someone or something can’t overcome death what hope is there? Does your idol have the answer for death? • Matt. 27:42 Does Jesus have the answer for death? • 1 Cor. 15:4-8 Paul knew Jesus was dead. But... • This living Jesus not only has an answer for death He transforms lives now. • The only way to get rid of your idol is to love something more. • Passages focused on in small groups: 1 Cor. 15:4-8; Acts 17:22-31 	Ron Seabrooke
Nov 12/17	1 Corinthians 15:58		<p>Celebration Sunday – congregational meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life giving God Part #2 We have a message a Savior worth celebrating. • He gives life now. The resurrection gives hope – over remorse, regrets, anxieties, losing our jobs or financial problems, fretting about stuff and fun, fears of aging. 	Ron Seabrooke

Nov 19/17	Revelation 21-22	The Joyful God	<p><u>Questions we want the preacher to answer from the passage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is God a “Joyful God”? What does God long for? What makes Him joyful? Is it possible that we both long for the same thing? Where does the world search for joy? Do they think God is joyful or a “kill joy”? Am I, as a follower of Jesus, any different? Where do I look for joy? How does the fact that God is a “Joyful God” impact our lives today? <p><u>Essence of Small group focus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our special memories revolve around 2 main things: Relationships and Home. • Heaven longed for relationship (Gen. 3 Promise to restore relationship) + (Gen. 12 Promise to restore relationship + a blessing) • Rev 21:1-7 A marriage – The Lamb and The Holy City – This is heaven’s longings and promises fulfilled. This is an accumulation of an infinitely greater liberation by an infinitely greater Lamb (Ex. 12) • Matt. 22:2-14 There is only one way to enter this fulfillment. If you continue to cling to your idols and reject the Lamb YOU WILL BE SHUT OUT. • If there was any other way ... why would the Son of God have to die for my sins? • Passages focused on by small groups: Rev 21:1-7; Matt. 22:2-14 	Randy Hoffman
Nov 26/16			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the series 	Matt Robinson