

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Samuel 7:22.

DISCUSSION:

1. This is VBS week. Our schedule is as follows. We will begin tonight at 5:00 p.m. Monday through **Thursday** we will meet at 7:00 p.m. We will have classes for ALL ages. Please come and bring as many people as possible with you. Fliers are available on the table in the foyer.
2. Thanks to everyone who has, is, and will help with this year's VBS.
3. Please pardon our progress.
4. This year's VBS theme is, "Exploring the Nature of God." The theme memory verse is 2 Samuel 7:22.
5. We will explore the nature of God at least three ways:



- A. **By studying five different names of God.** They are Elohim, Jehovah Elohim, Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Nissi, and Jehovah Ra'ah. These names reveal God to us as our Creator, Father, Provider, Strength, and Shepherd.
- B. **By studying five different Bible stories.**
 - 1) In our first lesson we will learn about Elohim, God our Creator, by studying the story of creation in Genesis 1:1-2:3. We will focus on the issue of control. We will see how we can't control many things that happen in life, but how Elohim, God our Creator, watches over everything that happens in life. Our memory verse will be Revelation 4:11.
 - 2) In our second lesson we will learn about Jehovah Elohim, God our Father, by studying about Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:7-3:24. We will focus on why God gives us rules to follow. We will see that He, as our loving Father, is trying to make us into what we really need to be. Our memory verse will be Isaiah 64:8.
 - 3) In our third lesson we will learn about Jehovah Jireh, God our Provider, by studying about Abraham's test of faith in Genesis 22:1-14. We will focus on how we need to trust God to take care of us. Our memory verse will be Lamentations 3:25.
 - 4) In our fourth lesson we will learn about Jehovah Nissi, God our Strength, by studying about the children of Israel's battle with the Amalekites in Exodus 17:8-16. We will focus on how God can motivate and strengthen us to win the battles of life. Our memory verse will be Psalm 46:1.
 - 5) In our fifth lesson we will learn about Jehovah Ra'ah, God our Shepherd, by studying the 23rd Psalm. We will focus on how we are like sheep and how we need God to shepherd us through life. Our memory verse will be Psalm 100:3.
- C. **By drawing parallels between earthly life and a jungle journey.**
 - 1) Jesus was the master teacher.
 - 2) Jesus often used parables in His teachings. He told earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
 - 3) This is what we are going to be doing this week. We are going to be drawing parallels between earthly life and a jungle journey in order to help us better understand the nature of God.
 - 4) "Life is much like a jungle, filled with excitement and mystery, yet also filled with pitfalls and snares each step of the way. As we travel through life, we continue to experience new and wonderful adventures and many of life's mysteries unfold before us. At the same time, each step of our lives also brings with it new obstacles to overcome. At times we may even feel lost in our futile attempts to overcome our own fears and shortcomings. However, it is often when we feel the most lost or vulnerable that we discover something magnificent. It is often when we need Him the most that we discover how truly great God is."

APPLICATIONS:

1. The names of God.
2. 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:28.
3. Psalm 1.
4. Matthew 6:25-33; Psalms 37:25.
5. Isaiah 40:27-31.
6. Acts 2:38.