**Pointers From The Pastor**

\* Good Day to you,

A well grounded person learns... “It doesn’t matter so much about what happens to you in life, it matters more how you respond to what happens to you.” So we have been forced to cancel church services – what do we do about it? From my perspective, we take the situation and make it better. Take the adverse situation and turn it around to making it a positive.

We will not be meeting as a church for the next several weeks. Initially we have canceled the next two weeks but the expectation is it will be several weeks longer. Matt and I will still be at church on Sundays so we can lead as we usually do: Matt will lead in Praise and I will lead in Preaching. The church website (<https://www.thousandoaksbible.church/>) has the information about how to see the service on line.

But what about Bible Study? In I Peter 2:2 it says, **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.** That means each person ought to show their own personal initiative in growing spiritually and the way to grow is by spending time in God’s Word.

I have not developed the entire panorama yet, but in the next several weeks I would like to expose you to some resources that I regularly use and respect. Some weeks I might include a Bible study that I have put together, but other weeks I might lay out the ingredients and encourage you to mix them together to make your own “bread.”

For today let me direct you to a tremendous website: <https://bible.org/> You can also just search for bible.org and find it that way.

Among the resources on the site is a free version of the "NetBible". This free tool has the NET Bible (2nd edition) with its 58,000+ notes, Greek, Hebrew, texts linked to Strongs numbers, and it allows you to search all the translations of the Bible to find your favorite verses. There are an astounding number of articles, studies, sermons, and resources on the site. Their theology is parallel to Dallas Theological Seminary.

So, how about taking a test drive? Let’s say you are interested in something you can do with your kids or grandkids.

1. Go to the home site - <https://bible.org/>
2. At the bottom of the picture there are 4 tabs you can use to scroll down. Hold your cursor over the RESOURCES tab.
3. Now on the left side of the page you see 4 groups: Men, Women, Children, Pastors. Click on the Children link.
4. Now, just explore. There is a lot to check out.
5. One suggestion – Click on Curriculum. Now click on the top article ”Who Am I?” People of the Bible. Select one of the four options: new or Old Testament/ Men or Women.
6. On right side of the page is a box – “Related Media” This will allow you to print an activity sheet Word Document. The Answers are on the bottom of the page. Or you might Cut N Paste part of the activity sheet to make a smaller project.

7) The best way is to use this yourself and do the study WITH your kids.

Another way to use the site is go to the Search Box right in the middle of the picture and type in a topic such as “Children” This will take you to a slew of articles and resources. You can type in practically any topic: Marriage, Baptism, Lust, Patience, etc.

I sincerely hope you will use bible.org as a way for growing yourself as a Believer and grounding yourself deeply in spiritual truth. Maybe share your experience on FaceBook for others to see and try.

God Bless, Chuck