



The theme of this Oak Leaf is "Growing in Christ", one of East White Oak's Vital Signs. At East White Oak our "Vital Signs" are key identifiers of the health of our ministries that apply both corporately and personally to our church body.



## Decision Making Based on Biblical Principles

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

The primary way that people go wrong in decision making is to do whatever feels best at the moment.

*by Pastor Scott Boerckel*

### How do you decide what to do?

For some, it's a matter of what feels good at the moment. For others, it's all about achieving goals. For still others, it's about crafting the world into one's own image. Even for believers, there seems to be quite a variety of ways that people make decisions.

Part of our church vital sign of Growing in Christ is about growing in decision making. Here is how we put it: "The obedient Christian will grow in decision making that is based on biblical principles rather than personal gratification." Knowing how to make good decisions is often the difference between a life filled with blessing and a life filled with pain. There are choices that we can make that bring a lifetime of pain and trouble, and there are choices that we can make that bring a lifetime of blessing.

The primary way that people go wrong in decision making is to do whatever feels best at the moment. Living this way is what brings people to financial ruin, drug addictions, relationship dysfunction, and permanent damage. Unfortunately, we can make these kinds of decisions when we are quite young, and they can bring a lifetime of pain. Things like out of wedlock births, drug addiction, criminal conviction, or bankruptcy all can be traced to poor decision

making. The professed believer in Christ is not immune from poor decision making. Sometimes people will say, "I don't know what went wrong. I trusted Jesus as my Savior. Why is all this happening to me?"

Of course, not everything can be traced to poor decision making. The story of Job proves that. However, I am convinced that the inability of Christians, particularly young adult Christians, to make good decisions is the primary cause of unnecessary pain in their lives. Please know that I am NOT saying that there are no other reasons for pain. Sometimes, the pain is from the wrong decisions of others; sometimes, it is simply living in a sin cursed world. However, most of the pain in our lives is self-inflicted by the decisions that we make, even the decisions that we make in responding to evil that is visited upon us.

The sooner in life that we figure this out, the better off we will be. The blaming game, which seems everywhere these days, will not bring about human thriving. We can blame parents, ethnicity, schooling, neighborhood, economic status, and rotten things done to us, but that brings only bitterness and pain. Even where there are issues outside of us that bring pain, we can still make choices and decisions that will bring either our increased blessing or our increased pain.

## **So, how do we make wise decisions? Here are three ways:**

### **Bring glory to King Jesus; get rid of King Self**

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33  
“Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

First, recognize that you are here to bring glory to King Jesus, not to yourself. You are not king of your universe; Jesus Christ is. If we just embraced that, all of life would be a life of thanksgiving and joy, even when horrible things happen. We are servants of the King! As servants, we accept His will and embrace His decrees. For example, when the King says, “This is the will of God . . . abstain from sexual immorality,” we don’t ignore, debate, or otherwise seek to minimize the demand of our King. We embrace His command. We don’t think, “Hmm, I wonder what the will of God is about this.” We already know it.

It is so easy to kingdom build for ourselves. We hardly realize that we are doing it. I know someone who sees everything in the world about how it affects him. Life is all about him, his world, his challenges, his triumphs. I feel sorry for him because he does not even know and cannot see that everything that he does, even in Christian service, is all about his kingdom, his world. But even though that is an extraordinary case, it is a cautionary tale for all of us. One way to improve our decision making is to ask, “What will serve King Jesus the best?” That is a far better question than, “What feels good to me?” When we live like this, we will discover that we cease being fault finding, arrogant, and holier than thou and instead live a life that exhibits grace to others.

### **Look to the wisdom books of the Bible**

“Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.” Proverbs 3:13  
“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.” Proverbs 4:7 There are 31 chapters to the book of Proverbs. If you want to become better at decision making, begin reading one chapter of Proverbs every day. That way, you will get through the book about once per month. Billy Graham did this for years, and I think that he was wiser for it.

Proverbs is a book that calls us to live a life of wisdom. Wisdom is personified as a beautiful woman who beckons us to become her friend. Make friends with wisdom, the Proverbs says, and you will gain wisdom in how and when to speak, how to tell the truth, how to avoid laziness, how to get your children to obey, how to control your anger, how to prevent evil people from hurting you, how to make the

right kind of friends, how to say no to sexual temptation, how to build a good family, how to be wise, how to get rich, and how to have a long and fruitful life. If you doubt me on this, I challenge you to take up the “one chapter of Proverbs per day” prescription. Watch what making friends with this book of wisdom will do.

### **Make Friends (with the Holy Spirit and others)**

“Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.” Proverbs 15:22  
“Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man,” Proverbs 22:24

One sure way to make poor decisions is to make them without the consultation of others. However, it is not simply a matter of consultation. If you have unwise friends, they will lead you in unwise directions. If you have wise friends, they will lead you in wise directions. So, look for people who demonstrate with their lives the joy that comes from wise decision making. Seek both to imitate them and to ask them for help. In this regard, the importance of fellowship in God’s family is essential. You can find great wisdom in your Bible Fellowship or Small Group. It is in the living out of the “one anothers” of the Bible that a life of wisdom can be grown.

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:25

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13

If we have salvation and eternal life by means of the Holy Spirit, it is essential that we keep in step with the Holy Spirit in everyday life. Make friends with the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to guide you, not in some mystical self-confirming way, but rather ask Him to take you to the right places in God’s Word, to convict you of sin and to equip you for life. The Bible promises that the sweet ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is to do just that. Again, this generally is not in some supernatural, mystical way, but rather by bringing the appropriate scriptures to bear upon the daily challenges of life. He is a powerful counselor and guide. He will never lead you away from the truth of the Bible. Instead, He will draw you to it because the Holy Spirit was the One Who bore men along as they wrote the Word of God.

How do you decide what to do? Hopefully, this article has given you a few more tools in your toolbox to equip you to grow in Christ. This vital sign of our church, “Growing in Christ,” is so important! Part of “Growing in Christ” is an increasing wisdom in decision making. May the Lord bless you as you seek to make decisions based on biblical principles rather than personal gratification.



In Youth Ministry we have an intentional plan to walk alongside each family.

*by Pastor Scott Boerckel*

One of the truisms of youth ministry is that students always come in shorter than me and they leave taller than me. I say that often as each of our students hits a growth spurt somewhere during their six years in the youth ministries. Seemingly, they leave youth group on Sunday and return the next week at least six inches taller.

That's kind of how it is with their spiritual growth as well. That's one of the reasons that youth ministry and our volunteers play such a pivotal role in students' lives. I still remember one time when I was teaching and a student suddenly blurted out "I've read that passage probably a dozen times, but I finally get it just now!" Quite honestly, it is so much fun to see when the Holy Spirit turns on the light of His word to our students.

Through our youth ministries we have an intentional plan to walk alongside each family as we work together to reach and disciple students. Within the youth ministries we teach God's Word in a variety of different ways, so students "get it" and have the opportunity to "live it" before they graduate.

We do our best to follow the example of how Jesus made disciples. As Jesus called disciples, He invited them to "Come and See" while walking alongside of Him as He ministered to others. He invited them to "Come and Grow" as He taught them, as they helped Him minister, and as they walked along the way. Jesus then sent the disciples to go and "minister to others" and ultimately to "Shepherd the flock."

**At East White Oak, we also try to follow this strategy in helping to make disciples in our youth ministries.**

### **"Come and See"**

If you don't have students in youth ministries, you may only hear about some of the fun events that we do and you might wonder what they are all about. Some might even wonder if all we do is play games and entertain students. That is far from what we do.

As I wrote about in my previous Oak Leaf article, there is a purpose behind everything we do. Each of our events are designed to be as fun as possible, so our students feel great about inviting their friends to "come and see" what Jesus is all about.

### **"Come and Grow"**

During Sunday Youth Bible Fellowships, our Jr High goes through an overview of the Bible every two years, alternating years between the New and the Old Testaments. So our students will have a solid grasp on God's Word even if they just begin to join us in 7th grade. In Senior High, we go deeper as we take a closer look at various books of the Bible.

At Junior High Crosstrainers and Senior High Sunday Nights we focus on a lot of fun, while being serious about creating long-lasting relationships with students, and we're all about our students knowing and growing in Christ. We accomplish this through a variety of small group studies (Jr High on Wednesday nights and Senior High throughout the week), teaching times at youth group (varying between topical and straight Bible studies), and relationships built with strong, dynamic volunteer leaders who are living out their faith in real life. This is where our fantastic volunteer staff comes in. Their role is to build Christ-honoring relationships with each of our students through interactions at youth group, on trips and events, and various other interactions.

## **“Minister to Others”**

We teach, challenge, and send our students out to minister to others in a variety of ways as well. Here are just a few of the ways that we accomplish this:

- Teaching them to share their faith and giving them opportunities to do so
- Teaching through experience by serving others with no expectation of anything in return
- Taking them on experiences that put these things into action (Serve Sundays, Mission Trips, serving inside the church, Rake and Runs, etc.)
- Praying for each other
- Creating an atmosphere of encouragement

## **“Shepherd the Flock”**

These opportunities come mostly in Senior High, but our goal is that each student would learn how they are gifted, and how they can use their gifts and talents to minister to each other, but also to take over leadership in a variety of areas.

Sherpas – This is a limited group of Juniors and Seniors who serve and work with our Jr High ministries. Many of these Sherpas go on to minister in churches and campus groups. Some also come back (or stay) as leaders within our church, or many other ways within the larger Church.

Worship Team – Students have an opportunity to serve on Jr High and Sr High Worship Teams. These teams lead the rest of the group in worship. This also serves as an opportunity for the students to grow into more and more responsibility and prepares them for a lifetime of worship leading, even as adults. You see many of our students leading with the adult worship teams on Sunday mornings as well.

Missions – One of the reasons we do a variety of different mission trips throughout students’ time in youth ministries is to expose them to the many different ways that God is working in people’s lives, with the prayerful hope that God may call them to serve Him through missions at home and abroad.

AWANA and Children’s Ministries – Many of our students are also serving in various ways as they fill volunteer roles while working with our Children’s Ministries. Other: If you look around, you will see youth in many different roles inside and outside the church, in school and on teams, always making a difference for Christ and in large or small ways, shepherding the flock.

These are just some of the ways that God grows our children in Christ as we work together to reach, teach, and challenge them in God’s Word. We are all in this together as our teens are looking around to see if this faith thing is real. It is so important that each of us continue to grow in Christ and that we pray for each other – teens for adults including their families; and adults for teens – as we grow together in Christ.

Thanks for praying for our youth as they grow in Christ!





## Perspectives from an Adult Bible Fellowship Teacher

by Steven Mann

Growing in Christ Means There  
Is Only One Source Of Life And  
Growth—Christ.

*by Steven Mann, Elder at East White Oak Bible Church*

### **“In him was life, and that life was the light of men” John 1:4**

When I became an Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) instructor for Fellowship 13 in 2019, one of the first passages of scripture we tackled as young families and young adults was Solomon’s book of Ecclesiastes. It is a book that Solomon wrote later in his life as instruction for young adults. Solomon’s message is not light-hearted and upbeat as you might expect with a youthful audience. Solomon laments early in his sermon that he had explored many unfruitful paths in his lifetime – he undertook large scale agriculture, amassed significant wealth, explored sensual pleasures like music, food and wine—“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.” (Ecc. 2:10) The pursuit of these pleasures, however, ultimately yielded little satisfaction for Solomon .... “Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.” (Ecc. 2:11)

A study of Solomon’s warnings on life’s unproductive endeavors should leave one wondering where the productive efforts lie. The answer: Growing In Christ.

### **What does Growing in Christ mean?**

#### **Growing in Christ Means There Is Only One Source Of Life And Growth—Christ.**

When we state “Growing in Christ” as one of East White Oak’s vital signs, we should be mindful of Solomon’s warnings that true growth does not take place in the phys-

ical realm. Sure we can grow in our knowledge here on earth, amass wealth, grow in influence and power over our fellow man—but what of true spiritual growth—the only growth that is everlasting? One of my great joys this year has been to lead Fellowship 13 in the study of the Gospel of John. The apostle makes clear that true life, and subsequently true growth, can only come from one source, Christ. “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was light, and that light was the life of all mankind.” (John 1:3-4) Solomon echoes a similar sentiment in Ecclesiastes 12 that we remember our Creator in the days of youth.

In turning to the true source of creation and of life, we are submitting to the One who can grow us in the spiritual realm in exponential ways. One of the neat benefits of teaching young families in Bible Fellowship is to witness this spiritual growth together in fellowship as we ponder together the amazing, eternal wisdom and immutable attributes of Christ, our Savior. Understanding that Christ is the only means to growth also guides biblical instruction. A focus on Christ instead of submitting to wisdom of the “present age” is always a productive endeavor for our fellowship and endeavor that promotes true spiritual growth.

#### **Growing in Christ Means: Knowing The True Christ Through Study of His Word.**

Another great joy of preparing for my time of fellowship with the Fellowship 13 ABF is interacting with God’s Word. Praying over the passage. Challenging my finite mind’s perception of who Christ is through the Holy Spirit inspired Word. I am constantly amazed in my study of the Gospel of how I am always learning new aspects of Christ’s deity. When I study Christ—in both the Old and New Testament, it helps me identify the nature and

attributes of Christ. In John chapter 1 for instance, we see Philip indicate to Andrew and Peter that Christ had been identified as “the one Moses wrote about in the law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:44) Philip’s recognition of Christ was, in part, a result of his knowledge of God’s Word. We, as an ABF, mirror the early church that “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Act 2:42)

I am mindful, along with my brothers and sisters in Fellowship 13, that we remain focused on Christ so that no one takes us captive through hollow and deceptive philosophies, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:8)

## **Growing in Christ Means: Experiencing the Power of Christ in Fellowship With Other Believers**

One of the great joys in Bible Fellowship with other believers is to experience the unity of fellowship through the Spirit. (Ephesians 4:1-6) Maybe it is an understanding ear when you need one. A hug. A prayer. A text message to say we are thinking about each other and praying for each other. A meal. The Spirit is also moving to influence and guide our fellowship. When we look to Christ in the midst of doing life together, we are admitting our brokenness to each other. Our struggles. Our fears and uncertainties. But we also share something else—our hope in Christ and trust that he who began a good work in us is carrying it to completion. (Philippians 1:6)

As an instructor of God’s Word in East White Oak Adult Bible Fellowships, Growing in Christ is the necessary result of (1) A true understanding and commitment to Christ as the true source of our spiritual growth; (2) a consistent study of God’s Word that unveils the immutable and sovereign attributes of Christ; (3) and fellowship through the Spirit of Christ with other believers supporting one another. It is not a path, it is the path to true growth.



# Growing in Christ: Boasting in Weaknesses

by Mark Warren

“And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

by Mark Warren

*The following is a testimony from Mark Warren about his life's journey as he is Growing in Christ. Mark is a faithful husband and member of East White Oak Bible Church, and the story below details his battle with ALS and his sincere devotion to the Lord and his family. Growing in Christ represents becoming mature believers growing in, through, and towards Christ. (2 Peter 3:18, Ephesians 4:13-16, Psalm 92:12-14)*

## From Mark Warren:

Susie and I got married June 4, 1983. I was diagnosed with ALS in June of 1984. We moved to my home state of Minnesota in the summer of 1985. I stopped breathing and went on a ventilator on October 8, 1988, and we moved back to Susie's—and now my—home state of Illinois on July 1, 2000 in our sweet hometown of Normal on Beech Street.

## Growing In Christ / Boasting In Weaknesses

*“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:9-10).*

*“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:1-4).*

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...” (Ephesians 1:18-19a).*

Biblical Insight is Amazing and Humbling and Enlightening. It also brings Peace and Rejoicing and Strength with Boasting in Weaknesses. Fresh Insight into very familiar and foundational Scripture has been happening for me as an answer to a precious prayer in Ephesians 1. As the eyes of my skull continue to weaken, yet the eyes of my heart are Enlightened - Fresh Insight - In Christ Alone! (We had a precious Fresh Insight discussion in ABF July 18th.)

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, . . . His inheritance, . . . the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...” (Ephesians 1:18-19a).*

For when we who believe are weak, we are strong in Christ and Growing in Christ!

What is the Divine purpose for which God has called me to be filled with Glorious Hope while still living with weaknesses ... with difficulties - with ALS? It is for all to be for Christ's sake, to bless the Lord at all times, to Proclaim and Embrace the Joy of the Gospel - the Good News of God's All-Sufficient Grace and His Perfect Love which casts out fear - and makes me rejoice in sufferings and well-content in the vastness of my weaknesses, for I can indeed boast about my weaknesses, “so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” This is Empowering and Enlightening, “for when I am weak, then I am strong” - only through Christ in my heart forever!

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7).*

SO - the solid basis for boasting in weaknesses must be - "My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice." I cannot boast about being humble, yet I hear my soul boast in the Lord and I rejoice in the Lord. The ears of my heart hear that Lord-boasting – ultimately about the Majesty of God in His Perfect Love in sending His Perfect Son to live a Perfect sinless Life and humbly being the One and Only Perfect Sacrifice for sinners like me and you by Perfectly paying our sin-debt in full by dying on Calvary's Cross --- then rising from the dead and becoming the Perfect Savior to those who humble themselves by confessing that we have no hope in life without believing and Growing In Christ! "In Christ Alone my hope is found!" Only HE delivers me from all my fears! This Precious Message of Perfect Love and Perfect Salvation is simultaneously Enlightening and Humbling, which leads to an Eternal Life of Rejoicing - ultimately humble, yet exalting Jesus-boasting!

FROG - F R O G - Fully Rely On God!  
FRESH - F R E S H - Fully Reliable Enlightening Salvation Hallelujah!

## **Let's live FROG-FRESH!**

The following are lyrics from In Christ Alone by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light,  
my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all —  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

*"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8).*

*"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28).*

*...so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD." (1 Cor. 1:31).*

*In Christ Alone, Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2001  
Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CCLI License #  
562389*





# An Increasingly Joyous Life of Submission

by Adam Garey

Submission can be simply described as one person humbly and willingly placing themselves under the authority of another.

*By Adam Garey, Elder at East White Oak Bible Church*

One of the ways in which we know that we are Seeking to Be Worshipers Maturing in Christ is through the vital sign of Growing in Christ. In a previous Oak Leaf, Pastor Scott introduced this vital sign:

Growing in Christ means a relationship with Christ. This means a continuing life of repentance, faith, and submission. Our submission is first to Christ as the head of the church. However, submission extends into every area of our lives—to family relationships, to church leadership, to the world at large.

## How does one define “submission?”

This can be simply described as one person humbly and willingly placing themselves under the authority of another. This was modeled perfectly by the Lord Jesus. In His prayer at Gethsemane, we see a window into His heart. Though He was sorrowful and troubled at the suffering and death He was about to endure, He submitted to the Father’s will, praying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39). Christ’s perfect work was finished on the cross. He bore terrible punishment for our sins that we might now enjoy fellowship with God. In response, it is good and proper that we should follow Jesus’ example by also living in submission to God’s Word and will (Rom. 6:17-18) with gratitude for what He has done for us.

The Bible is clear and specific about who we are to submit to. For instance, we are all to place ourselves in submission to rulers and governing authorities (Rom. 13:1-2, Titus 3:1-2). When we become members of a

local church, we place ourselves under the authority of the elders (1 Pet. 5:5). Wives are called to submit to husbands (Eph. 5:22), employees are exhorted to “obey in everything” our employers “with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord” (Col. 3:22, cf Titus 3:2). And finally, the broadest of commands is that we, with thankful hearts, “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Eph. 5:20-21).

This may seem to be a daunting portfolio of submission. Our immaturity, divided hearts, and pride, as well as the deceitful whispers of the Devil lead us away from the humility and gratefulness that it takes to submit to the will of the Lord or to the people around us. But take heart! With each call to obedience found in Scripture, we find complementary words of hope and blessing to those who willingly submit. Rulers and authorities are servants of God given for our good (Rom. 13:3-5). Elders are instructed to “shepherd the flock of God” willingly, selflessly, and eagerly. They are to be “examples to the flock” which would include exemplary humility and submission to the Lord Jesus (1 Pet. 5:1-4). Immediately after calling wives to submit to their husbands, husbands are commanded to love their wives. All out, humble, selfless, agape love “as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25-28). Employers are commanded to treat their employees “justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven” (Col. 4:1). And finally, submitting to one another fosters mutual blessing and joy among all who are submitting to one another.

**The growing disciple’s life is an increasingly joyous life of submission.**



## Growing in Christ Survey

Find the link at  
[eastwhiteoak.church/oak-leaf-september-2021](http://eastwhiteoak.church/oak-leaf-september-2021)

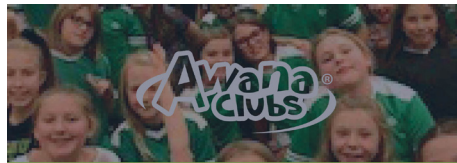
**This survey consists of 6 sets of multiple choice questions and your answers will be completely anonymous.**

Consider taking this short ANONYMOUS survey —not to measure your own spiritual vitality in the eyes of others, but to give all of us a glimpse “behind the scenes” of our church community. Answering questions will help our pastors understand the unique ways we each grow in Christ. You will also help us know how we may best serve the Church as we’re Seeking to be Worshipers Maturing in Christ! Look for all the results in the next Oak Leaf.



### Church Picnic, September 12

Sunday Worship, baptisms at the beach, boxed lunches, inflatable games, a Mega Challenge Escape Room, boating, ice cream, hayrack rides, an afternoon concert, and much more! Sign up by September 9.



### AWANA Begins September 1

This Wednesday evening kids’ ministry is designed for children ages 3 - 6th grade.



### Fall Women’s Ministry Events

Fall Bible Studies begin Sept. 2 & Sept. 23. Invite a friend to our Gather Brunch on September 18, or plan to attend the Revive Out Heart Simulcast October 8-9.

Register or learn more about any of these events at [EastWhiteOak.church/oakcentral](http://EastWhiteOak.church/oakcentral).



## Verse of the Month

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE IN 2021

### September 2021

John 14:21 “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (ESV)

*We show Jesus that we love Him by obeying Him. That obedience leads to closer relationship with both God the Father and God the Son. Do you want a more intimate relationship with God? Do you want Jesus to show Himself in your life? Take that next step of obedience that you know you should take.*

[EastWhiteOak.church/biblememory](http://EastWhiteOak.church/biblememory)

# Results: Rooted in Scripture Survey



The theme of the May 2021 Oak Leaf was “Rooted in Scripture”, one of East White Oak’s Vital Signs. Our Vital Signs are key identifiers of the health of our ministries that apply both corporately and personally to our church body.

Being Rooted in Scripture means we have an unflinching commitment to the Word of God and have roots that are the foundation of spiritual health both personally and corporately as a church body. Our last survey yielded 22 individual results and reflects not a standard by which to measure your own spiritual vitality, but rather a look into the lives of others within the body and their practices. Check out all the results from this last survey below to see the unique ways we each study God’s Word as individuals. Be encouraged that this survey is helping our church leaders consider how we may best serve the Church as we’re seeking to be worshipers maturing in Christ!

## Survey Results

**How much importance do you place on being Rooted in Scripture through Bible reading and study? (choose one)**

**83%** = Great Importance  
**8%** = Moderate importance  
**8%** = Some importance  
**0%** = Little or no importance

**Please indicate your preference for your personal Bible study times:**

**75%** = Mornings  
**20%** = Evenings  
**4%** = Afternoons

**Please indicate how much time you typically spend each day in Bible study:**

**42%** = 30 Minutes  
**29%** = 15 minutes or less  
**17%** = 1 hour  
**8%** = 2 hours  
**4%** = 2 hours or longer

*Continued on page 12*



## Summer Youth Ministry

Our students and leaders have had an incredible summer of fun, service, and ministry. Check out all the summer photos on our website! Allow the photos a few moments to load. There are a LOT of great pictures!

[EastWhiteOak.church/youthphotos](http://EastWhiteOak.church/youthphotos)



**During the past year, about how often, if at all, did you do any type of individual Bible Study?**

46% = Daily  
42% = Several times per week  
4% = Several times per month  
4% = Once a month  
4% = Less than once a month

**Which of the following best describes your preferred Bible study approach?**

88% = Mix of individual and group study  
12% = All individual study  
(reading, online, other media)

**Which of the following methods/approaches do you prefer during personal Bible study? (check all that reflect your preference)**

100% = Bible reading, verse by verse  
71% = Bible study guides, daily devotionals, or workbooks  
38% = Devotionals (Christian classics, autobiographies, theology)  
38% = Listening to music, singing, or studying musical history  
29% = Reading a Hymnal

**During the past two years, have you taken part in Bible study through an Adult Bible Fellowship?**

92% = Yes  
8% = No, but I am interested  
0% = No, and I am not interested

**Which of the following Bible study topics would you be interested in? (choose all that apply)**

88% = In-depth Bible Study  
67% = Spiritual Disciplines for spiritual growth and maturity  
63% = Biblical perspectives on contemporary issues  
50% = Understanding and using prayer to know God  
46% = Living out my Christian faith everyday  
33% = Understanding and employing spiritual gifts  
21% = Managing my finances according to Biblical principles  
17% = Christian parenting/support  
17% = Basic Christian beliefs

**During the past two years, have you taken part in Bible study through a Small Group?**

88% = Yes  
8% = No, and I am not interested  
4% = No, but I am interested

**Which of the following methods/approaches do you prefer during group Bible study? (check all that reflect your preferences)**

79% = Book, with leader facilitated group discussion  
54% = Group viewing of DVD followed by group discussion  
33% = Guest speaker and discussion, no prior attendee preparation  
29% = Hybrid online-individual study of materials/group discussion  
29% = Book club style informal discussion  
17% = Completely online, independent study with group discussion

**Please indicate your preference concerning the length of each group Bible study meeting. (choose one)**

46% = 1 hour  
25% = 1.5 hours  
13% = 30 minutes  
8% = 2 hours  
8% = 2 hours or longer

**Please indicate your preferences for where Small Group Bible study sessions should be held. (check all that reflect your preferences)**

58% = In someone's home  
46% = Meeting place doesn't matter to me  
21% = At the church  
8% = At a public place, such as a coffee shop or a restaurant  
4% = At my home – I would prefer to host the small group study