

### *Scott's Thoughts* by Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

People's encounters with God in the scripture are many and varied - Jacob 'wrestles' with God and forever limps to show the effects; Moses meets with God face-to-face and his face shines with reflected glory; Isaiah sees a vision of God that completely unravels him; Paul meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and is blinded. Nobody meets with God and comes away unchanged.

Fear, awe, exhilaration, dread, and amazement accompany an encounter with the Living God. Notice what response is missing from the list of biblical responses but is so prevalent among people today? Give up? Boredom. Boredom with God seems to be epidemic these days (apathy may be another way to phrase it). People just don't care about God, worship, the scripture, or spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible reading, public worship, etc.). However, no one, and I repeat NO ONE who ever encountered God came away bored - God is just too incredible for that to happen.

So, what gives? If God isn't boring but many people get bored with god, how can that be? Well, you probably noticed that I spelled god with a small 'g' rather than a capital one. I firmly believe that people are bored with God because they haven't really encountered *Him* - they've encountered an idol (something/someone masquerading as God) - and idols *are* boring.

God is limitless in His perfections; idols have no perfections. God speaks to the human heart with power, love, and grace; idols can't speak. God created all things for His own glory; idols are the creations of men. God is infinitely wise, possessing all knowledge; idols are dumb. God takes notice of people in their difficulties and rescues them; idols are blind and weak. You get the picture.

God is more amazing than we can ever think or imagine. In fact, eternity will be spent in a state of total amazement with God because He will constantly be revealing more of His splendor than the moment before - and He will never run out! WOW!! Think about something that stirs your soul... maybe a roller coaster ride, bungee jumping, a baby smiling, riding a motorcycle, etc. and then understand that these moments, these exhilarating moments, are small glimpses of eternity with God.

Are you bored with God or do have youth who are bored with God? I hope these suggestions will help you "see" God more clearly...

1. Ask God to reveal Himself to you through the Bible.
2. Believe that God will answer prayer #1 and begin reading the Bible.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart to meet with God.
4. Be humble and take God at His Word
5. Believe what you read about God.
6. Think through what God reveals about Himself and how He has made you for Himself.
7. Begin living according to God's ways rather than the world's.
8. Practice and enjoy the presence of God.
9. Rehearse in your mind the truth that God loves you in Christ... and do it all day long!
10. Help others see the beauty and grandeur of God.

There will be many obstacles to meeting with God... He will not be one of them. Be purposeful in your pursuit, be expectant, listen well, and enjoy the benefits of time with God (capital 'G')!

Pastor Scott

You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3

### Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**  
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm  
Middle & High School
- **Youth Group Volleyball**  
Wednesdays in the gym  
6:30—8:00pm  
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**  
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm  
1st—5th grade

## SOAR Information

### Adult Volleyball

Mondays 7:00pm  
Thursdays 7:00pm

Come enjoy a game of free-play volleyball, make some friends, and hear about Jesus!

Monday nights are new for us this year and has been a great alternative for adults new to the game or who prefer less competitive play.

### Youth Soccer

Registration Day is on Sat., Mar. 31st from 10-12pm.  
Co-Ed ages 4.5 - 11.  
League Fee is \$35.  
Season Finale is June 2nd.

### Youth Baseball

Registration Day is on Sat., June 16th from 10-12pm.  
Co-Ed ages 5 - 16.  
League Fee is \$30.  
Season Finale is Aug. 25th.

### Youth Basketball

Registration Day is on Sat., Sept. 8th from 10-12pm.  
Co-Ed ages 5 - 15.  
League Fee is \$30.  
Season Finale is Dec 8th.

For more information, call the church office or visit our website at [www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org).



## Parents' Answer Book Dr. James Dobson

**Q:** We have always laughed a lot in our family, sometimes at each other. Is that good or bad?

**A:** It is healthy to be able to laugh together in a family. We ought to be able to tease and joke with each other without having to worry about getting an angry overreaction in response. But when the laughter is always at the expense of the most vulnerable member of the family, it can be destructive.

Even innocent humor is painful when it's the same child who is the object of ridicule. Unfortunately, that's the way it often happens. When one youngster has an embarrassing characteristic, such as bed-wetting or thumb sucking or stuttering, the other members of the family should be encouraged to tread softly on the exposed nerves thereabouts. And a child should never be ridiculed for his or size, whether he's a small boy or a large girl.

This is a guiding principle: It's wise not to tease a child about features that he or she is also defending outside the home. If that youngster is hearing about some obvious flaw all day long, he or she certainly doesn't need more flak from family. And when that child asks for the joke to end, the request should be honored.

Being the butt of everyone's ridicule is a formula for lifelong resentment, and there's nothing funny about that happening.

### Epeshians 2:8

*For it is by  
grace you have  
been saved,  
through faith -  
and this not from  
yourselves, it is  
the gift of God*

## Photos Needed

Do you have digital photos of your child playing volleyball? We would like to include action shots in the SOARing Newsletter each week.

Names and other personal information will not be printed.

Please email them to [dmharper@bellsouth.net](mailto:dmharper@bellsouth.net)

Thanks!



## Volleyball News

### Team Pictures

Fri, 2/23—Team 12 ('Rillas)  
Tues, 2/27—all other teams

### Ice Cream Social

Save room for a banana split on  
Friday, March 9th!

Ages 10-12 (after 6:30 game)  
Ages 13-14 (after 7:30 game)  
Ages 15-HS (after 8:30 game)

### League Day

Sunday, March 11th.

Plan to attend one of our worship services with us! We have 2 services: an 8:30 or 11:00am. Players can wear their uniforms and sit together with their team!



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Worship Service

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

[www.fpcstanley.org](http://www.fpcstanley.org)

Team Rosters  
Game Schedule  
Parent's Corner