

Media and Graphics Notes

Word of Witness Video?	No
Sermon Starter Video?	Yes
Sermon Notes?	There are three videos as part of the message today.
Other Notes	

Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about how we experience God's grace and continue to grow in our faith throughout our life.

Why is this sermon important?

This sermon is important because we have the opportunity to continue to grow and develop in our faith throughout our life.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is the third of the Discipleship #1 series which is a collaboration between First United Methodist Church and the Kansas Oil Museum.

What are the next action steps?

If you are not part of a group outside of worship, I invite you to join one.

What is the good news (bottom line)?

The good news is that God invites into relationship and shows us the way to go. As disciples we follow the way of Christ.

Metadata

1. Topic(s)
 1. Grow
 2. Making Disciples
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
 1. Acts
3. Tags
 1. sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, Eldorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnual Conference, grow, group, prayer, bible



14th Sunday after Pentecost
Discipleship #1 - Fossils, Fuel and Faith
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1DIsZFC>

August 30, 2015
Acts 17:10-15
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,949
Audio Online at <http://j.mp/1Jzjdgi>

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Acts 17:10-15, CEB

As soon as it was dark, the brothers and sisters sent Paul and Silas on to Beroea. When they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. The Beroean Jews were more honorable than those in Thessalonica. This was evident in the great eagerness with which they accepted the word and examined the scriptures each day to see whether Paul and Silas' teaching was true. Many came to believe, including a number of reputable Greek women and many Greek men.

The Jews from Thessalonica learned that Paul also proclaimed God's word in Beroea, so they went there too and were upsetting and disturbing the crowds. The brothers and sisters sent Paul away to the seacoast at once, but Silas and Timothy remained at Beroea. Those who escorted Paul led him as far as Athens, then returned with instructions for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible.

Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Introduction

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

**** Start Sermon Timer ****

Series Review

Today, we continue our series, Discipleship #1: Oil Fields and Faith. From discovery of oil at Stapleton #1 in 1915 through the 1950's oil permeated every aspect of life in Butler County and continues to be an integral part of our life today.

During this series, we are collaborating with the Kansas Oil Museum to bring you some of these stories. Each week, we are focusing on a different aspect of our oil history and making a connection to our discipleship pathway and the spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Last week, we considered worship and today we focus on grow and the tools we use to connect with God and other people.

Sermon Notes and Scripture Study

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.

- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

Opening

Prayer

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Milestones

Celebrate a Wedding

Yesterday, I officiated at the wedding ceremony for Lyndsey Martin and Nick Korkki. One of my favorite moments from every wedding is when they head out the doors of the church with friends and family gathered to wish them well.

They are starting their journey as a married couple. Life will continue and it is brand new all at the same time. A wedding is a milestone and once in a lifetime event in their relationship. It marks the end of one stage of their relationship and the beginning of a lifetime of life together.

Yet, a wedding is not the last milestone in the life of a couple.

There will be many more to come.

Milestones in Life

Whether we are married or not, we all have milestones in our life. Some of these may include:

- Graduating from school
- Starting a new job
- Moving into a new home or to a new city
- Retirement

We have milestones throughout our life and some of them have to do with our faith.

Milestones of Faith

Here at First United Methodist Church we hope to help create milestones of faith at different times in people's lives:

- Baptism for children and adults
- Giving a bible to our third graders
- Inviting students to consider their faith during confirmation

- Welcoming people of all ages as members of the congregation and to the commitment to grow in faith by seeking to worship, grow, give, serve and share.

Transition

Today we take a closer look at one of the milestones in the oil and gas industry which happened right here in Butler County. This milestone is the use of geology in oil discovery.

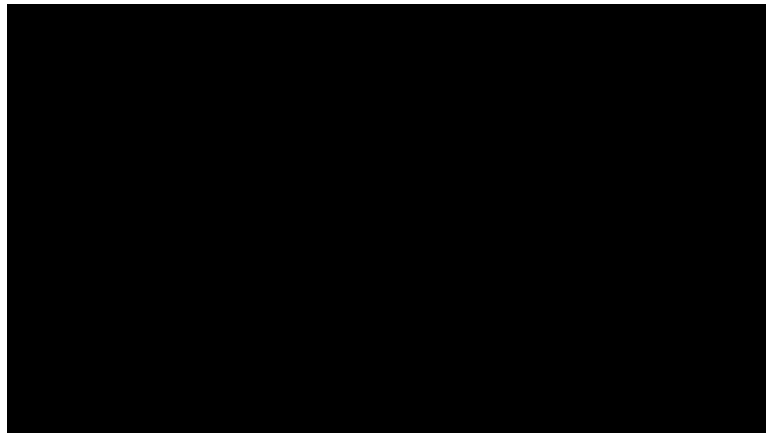
Before this milestone, there were a wide variety of techniques that were used to discover oil. Warren Martin, Executive Director of the Kansas Oil Museum, tells us about a few of them.

Let's take a look...

Life Long Learner

Video Illustration: Charlatans and Tools

2015-08-30 Sermon 2 - Charlatans and Tools Video



Pure Luck? - Geology and Faith

This was all before the use of geology in oil discovery.

It is fascinating to hear about the ways people claimed to be able to discover oil.

Your Faith Journey

Let's connect this with our life of faith.

Do you ever feel that you are not growing in your faith?

Does it seem that the tools that you use or the influences that shape you aren't helping you like a follower of Jesus Christ?

It may be helpful for you to remember the bigger picture of our life of faith.

What are we hoping for in our life of faith?

How does my connection with God grow and develop over time?

What does it mean to be on a lifelong journey with God?

Transition

Let me remind you about the big picture of our life as United Methodist Christians.

Experiencing God's Grace

God's love is at the center of our life as United Methodist Christians.

We talk about God's love and willingness to forgive as grace.

God's grace is available to all people at all times of life.

We are all in different places in our spiritual life, so we experience God's grace in different ways depending on our circumstances.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, identified three different ways that we experience God's grace. We call them: prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace.

Prevenient Grace

Prevenient Grace is God's work in our life before we are aware of it.

No matter who you are, what you have done or what your life is like right now, God loves you and wants to be in relationship with you.

God freely offers us love and forgiveness, even though we don't deserve it.

Of all the ways that we divide ourselves:

- what we look like,
 - where we live,
 - how much money we make,
 - the abilities of our body and minds,
 - our gender, age or who we love,
- none of these make a difference for God's love.

God's love and God's grace is for all people. This is prevenient grace.

Justifying Grace

We call the next experience of God's grace, justifying grace.

This is when you recognize God's love for you and God's work in your life.

You consciously make a decision to respond to God's love.

We confess our sins, receive forgiveness, trust in God and seek to follow Jesus.

We are made right with God or justified with God.

This is a milestone in our life of faith and marks the time when we begin to grow in love of God and neighbor.

For some this is a single moment and they are very clear about when this happens. For others, it is something that you realize over a number of years. No matter what it is like for you, it is not the end of the journey.

Continuing to Grow - Sanctifying grace

After we are made right with God and experience God's justifying grace, we continue to grow throughout our life. John Wesley talk about this experience as

sanctification or growing toward Christian perfection which means perfect love of God and neighbor. We continue to grow in our faith throughout our lives.

Discipleship Pathway

Prevenient, justifying and sanctifying.

These are the ways that we describe our experience of God's grace.

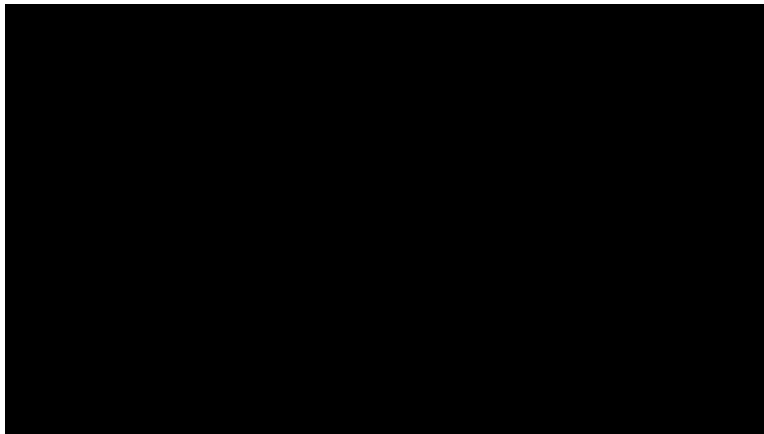
These mark milestones in our life of faith and give us a framework for understanding how we grow in our faith.

Transition

Now, let's take a look at one of the milestones in Butler County as geology is applied to oil discovery. Let's take a look...

Video Illustration: Geology and Butler County

2015-08-30 Sermon 4 - Geology and Butler County Video



Making Progress

Individual

The way that we apply the framework of prevenient, justifying and sanctifying grace is our discipleship pathway. We seek to follow Jesus by engaging in the spiritual practices to worship, grow give, serve and share. These practices help us continue to grow.

Congregation

We also have the opportunity to continue to grow as a congregation.

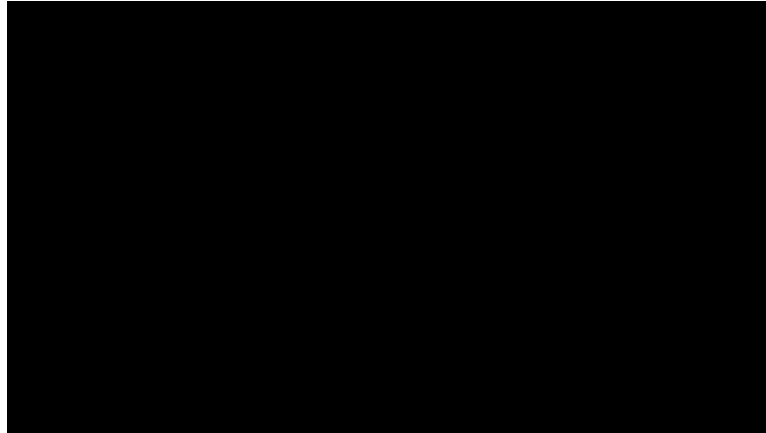
Transition

How do we keep growing as a church?

Let's take a look at one of the applications from the Kansas Oil Museum.

Video Illustration: Geology and Butler County

2015-08-30 Sermon 6 - Application Video



Practices for Spiritual Growth

Responsibility in Seeking Growth

God brings spiritual growth in our lives, but there are things that we can do to make ourselves more receptive to God and prepare for growth. There are things that no one else can do for you - it is something that you have to seek on your own.

Two of the essential practice for you to grow in faith on your own are by reading the bible and praying.

Read the Bible

Reading the bible can be a powerful way for us to grow in our faith. The Bible gives us the clearest picture of Jesus and in Jesus we see the clearest picture of God.

Reading the Bible helps us understand more clearly what we are taught or hear about our faith. We see this in the scripture passage for today in which we read

The Berean Jews were more honorable than those in Thessalonica. This was evident in the great eagerness with which they accepted the word and examined the scriptures each day to see whether Paul and Silas' teaching was true.¹

We design the bulletin to be a tool for you to grow in your faith. Each week you can read the scripture for the next weekend to prepare for worship. This is just one of the many ways you can engage in the Bible.

¹ Acts 17:11, CEB.

Pray

Another simple and powerful way to grow in your faith is to pray and spend time with God. Take time to listen and speak. Relationships are built when you spend time with someone and share a conversation.

Transition

We also grow in faith with other people, in small groups and as a church.

Growing in our Faith with Others

We are constantly trying to figure out how we can continue to be faithful to God and relevant to the community around us as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Small Groups

One of the practices that we know works for growing in faith with others is being in a small group outside of worship. This fall we have launched new small groups and we continue to seek ways to effectively grow in our faith together and invite others to know and follow Jesus.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God invites into relationship and shows us the way to go. As disciples we follow the way of Christ.

Call to Action

If you are not part of a group outside of worship, I invite you to join one.

Invitation

[Text here]

Closing Prayer

[Text here]

Amen.