



My dear fellow Disciplers,

Another season of study is drawing to a close for most Disciplers classes and I hope you have all grown and been encouraged through your fellowship in the Word. With no daily lesson to work on, most of us will have a little extra time in each day. I wonder if you have thought about what you'll do with that time? Especially since summer can be a more "laid back" time of year, you may not even think about filling that extra time you will have every day. You may just drift into doing whatever you find to be enjoyable - like going for a walk, napping, watching T.V., or social media. Or you may choose to continue to spend that time in God's Word.

I think summer is a wonderful time of year, and I hope you will have the freedom to find time for activities that refresh your mind and put a smile on your face. But as you plan your summer, I'd like to remind you of something the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8: *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*

I don't know about you, but in our world today I often find it difficult to dwell on things that are true, honorable, right, pure and lovely. There is not much wholesome or uplifting in the news, entertainment, or even the sports world. We live in a fallen world and the apostle John exhorted us, *Do not love the world nor the things in the world....the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, because these things are not*

### Summer Reading List

**Martin Luther** by Eric Metaxas is my favorite (besides the Bible, of course). It is a meticulously researched and amazing, inspiring story of a man who found truth in God's Word, took it to heart, and changed the world for all of us.

**Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project** by Jack Mayer is the true contemporary story of three teenage girls in Kansas, a history project, and a woman who rescued children from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. This story has changed the lives of countless people and certainly made me reevaluate what is important in life.

**Every Day with Jesus, the Armor of God** by Selwyn Hughes is a small daily devotional with two months of readings on spiritual warfare and the weapons God has given us. Each day includes a Scripture reading, short commentary, prayer, passages for further study, and questions for reflection. There is much information, insight, and inspiration in this little book.

**Systematic Theology** by Wayne Grudem, is a tome I'm working my way through now. It is giving me a sound perspective on God's Word and a solid background for every book of the Bible I want to read and study. There are questions at the end of every chapter to help me remember and take to heart what I've read, and a beautiful hymn that ties in with the subject. Thank you to Mary Lou Damon, former Director of Disciplers for sharing this book with me.

*from God* (1 John 2:15-16). Especially in the hectic secular world in which we live, it's important for us to find time daily to fill our minds with thoughts that are pleasing to God. I've found that if I fill the first minutes in the morning with God's Word it sets the tone for my day and helps me to focus on Him instead of the strains, stresses and smut of the world. And I think it's important to spend the last minutes before going to sleep at night filling my mind with things that are pleasing to Him. When my husband was alive we always read a chapter in the Bible

aloud just before going to sleep, making His Word the last word of the day. But reading a wholesome, inspirational book can also refresh and quiet your mind before you go to sleep. Training your mind to think on what is pure, right, and lovely takes daily practice, even when the rest of you is on vacation. With that in mind, I'd like to share some books I've enjoyed and benefitted from this past year.

May your summer be blessed with *every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ* (see Ephesians 1:1-14), and special quiet times with the Lord.

**Fun facts from 2017** ♦ Studies downloaded: 373  
 ♦ Disciplers classes USA: 215  
 ♦ International classes: 14  
 ♦ Homeschool groups: 37  
 ♦ Most popular studies: Romans, Genesis, John



With love in Christ,

Suzie

Director of Disciplers  
Bible Studies

## Saltshakers Raleigh

Saltshakers, a vibrant group of women in Raleigh, North Carolina, meets weekly to fellowship in God's Word. They are finishing their 14th year of Disciples studies with over 500 ladies enrolled in two classes. The daytime class has 26 discussion groups and over 70 leaders who shepherd the women and homeschoolers and take care of administrative duties. The evening class has 5 discussion groups. In

addition, they serve two "satellite classes", in Baywood, Virginia and Kannapolis NC, brought about through the enthusiasm of Saltshakers class members. These groups follow the Saltshakers format of worship and discussion time and then watch recorded lectures from the Raleigh class. Faithful class administrator, Elaine Martin, recently wrote us, "God is surely at work in a mighty way! It's a joy to experience the growth and excitement of our ladies and children and we praise God for each one He

has brought to our classes. We are grateful for our gifted teacher Sarah Knott and her substitute FAYESON TILLEY, both former Bible Study Fellowship teaching leaders. Sarah is the mother of six, including quadruplets, and FAYESON is the grandmother of triplets. We are thankful for their love and study of God's Word, and encouraging lectures each week. We are also thankful for Christ Baptist Church which so warmly welcomes us!"

*Sarah Knott leads singing before lecture time*



*Sarah Knott and FAYESON TILLEY*



## Kannapolis Class at First Presbyterian Church

The idea of a Kannapolis class started in 2016 because Judy Goodnight had a desire to start a Saltshakers group in her home church. Judy's daughter attends Saltshakers in Raleigh, and the two of them prayed and worked together to make it happen. Through their continuing commitment and God's grace, this satellite class has grown to two discussion groups with two dedicated women from the class serving as group leaders. We are told that the leaders faithfully review the lesson before class and pray together each week. Also, "the ladies have loved the opportunity to be exposed to God's Word in a deeper study with small groups and a lecture. They also love the fellowship and getting to know other sisters in Christ on a more personal level... The study on Judges has been wonderful! We all have grown so much as we see ourselves and our culture in the children of Israel from that time. It has been a sobering and excellent reminder of God's holiness, mercy, goodness and faithfulness, as well as a call to seek Him first in ALL things!"

## Baywood Group

Baywood, Virginia is a small town about three hours from Raleigh, N.C. This satellite class meets Monday evenings to uplift one another through sharing what they have learned in their lessons and through prayer. The ladies cheerfully take care of the administrative tasks, music worship, and technical duties, and Susie Doyle from Raleigh Saltshakers enjoys joining them as often as possible as facilitator. She recently wrote, "The Lord in His faithfulness is helping these sweet ladies stay in His Word and allow Him to apply it to daily life. Judges is turning out to be my favorite study as I see God's mercy, grace, and patience. He has convicted us and led us to ask Him to search our hearts for obvious and then hidden idols... He is faithful! He is working. He reveals our need for a Deliverer and thrills us that our Deliverer is Jesus!"



*Kannapolis discussion groups with leaders: 2nd from right: Sharon Cranford, 5th from right: Janice Jolley, 4th from left: Landra Staab (Judy's daughter) from Saltshakers Raleigh*



*Far left: Judy Goodnight, 5th from left: Anne McGrath from Saltshakers Raleigh*



*Baywood ladies*