

October 2009



HAPPY NOTES *at home*

for the Vineyard Church family



Understanding the Bible

by Happy Leman

What Does the Bible Say / Mean?

The Bible is a mysterious book to most people. It has the obvious negative aspects – it's a thick book, written years ago, by many authors in languages that are hard to always comprehend. Yet we realize it is the basis of our faith and our lives. Most of us struggle to take the words into a context of 2009 and apply them.

How Can We Understand It?

The key to the Bible is both understanding and application. This is very difficult in a day and age when we are becoming increasingly unaware of what the Bible says and filled with doubt as to whether it is meaningful in our generation. It is the constant challenge that we as believers face to dig into the Word to make it relevant in regard to the lives that we live.

Help Is On the Way

As a leadership team, we've decided that **understanding the Bible is the highest priority** that this church can have at the current time. We believe that as individuals understand the Bible, we'll fall more in love with Jesus, more in love with His people and creation, and be more willing to partner with Him in implementing His grand plan for the future.

To help, we've asked **Derek Morpew**, one of the Vineyard's leading theologians, to share deeper insights with us on Friday and Saturday, October 23rd and 24th. He'll be looking at **The Church and Its Leaders** as well as the **Book of Romans**. Both of these subjects will be challenging and taught from a genuine Biblical perspective as he takes us deep into the Word of God.

Speaking of Derek Morpew, he is the leading theologian behind **Vineyard Bible Institute (VBI)**. We have offered VBI classes for the last few years and have found them very helpful. **This is the remedy for those who want something deeper.** There are many timely subjects such as The Kingdom of God, Spiritual Authority, Interpreting Scripture, etc. that can be accessed through this system. The classes can be taken at different levels from auditing which is free up to college credit. For more information regarding these opportunities contact Penny Moisson at penny@vineyardbi.org.

In addition to Derek Morpew, we're bringing in **Bill Jackson** for the next few weeks. He teaches an 8 hour seminar entitled "**Nothings Gonna Stop It.**" This gives an overall look at the Bible as one story and will be held on November 6-7. In addition, our pastoral team is going to use the weekend messages from October 17-18 through November 21-22 to describe the same material from a little different point of view. Our goal is that by the end of the sermon series as well as Bill's 8 hour seminar, you will be able to confidently explain what the storyline of the Bible really is. We believe this will change how you respond to the King and the Kingdom.

A Perfect Opportunity

Currently on our weekend services, we do not have a chance to get as deep as some of you would enjoy. The next few weeks with Derek Morphey, Bill Jackson, and VBI classes, **you will have the opportunity to go as deep as you would like.** We encourage you to take advantage of the situation as it represents an opportunity that is very special and unique.

Remember it is our goal that people be mature, developed Christians who both know and live the word. To facilitate this, we want to continually expose you to more and more great teaching from the Bible. Thanks again for joining me in this opportunity and for being partners. God Bless.

Happy Notes at Home are a monthly reflection of community life at The Vineyard Church and are produced by Happy Leman.