

“GOD ON THE MOVE”
“God Moves Past All Obstacles”

During our second week of “God on the Move” we heard in worship from Bob Robinson about the process of recovery after his knee replacement. His honesty about PT was an obstacle that it was not much fun but necessary to be where he is today is something that I hope each of you carry with you as you continue moving and counting your miles. God is also with us through the obstacles we face. Jesus knows the pain we suffer and the love we need to move past the obstacles. You are encouraged to keep moving, and log your miles at logmysteps@firstwichita.org or in the B2 hallway with cards. Last week our church made it a total of 761 miles! Just 5,981 to go until Jerusalem! **(Study Guide written by Pastor Rebecca Goltry Mohr)**

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon: **“God Moves Past All Obstacles”**

Daily prayer: God be in my mind as I search your Word. God be in my hands as I serve others. God be in my heart as I open up to the possibility of love. God be in my feet as I step towards your righteousness. God who walks with me, I trust that you are with me in all of my actions, help me to follow your footsteps throughout this week. In your holy and precious name, Amen.

This week's sermon may be viewed at <http://sundaystreams.com/go/firstwichita>

Study Guide

Monday, March 18: Genesis 3:1-6

The story of the fall, first sin and its punishment is just about the largest obstacle to move past. Not long after God created and ordered the world, humanity has its first falling out, when we disobey God's command of not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The fall is the obstacle that frames much of our relationship with God. God still seeks to know and love us, even when we have not obeyed God's requests. **Daily challenge:** *Move Upward- Find ways to move into a deeper relationship with God, allow God's rhythms of justice and righteousness to become your movement upward.*

Tuesday, March 19: Genesis 3:7-10

"They heard the sound of God walking in the garden..." is where we pick up the scripture from yesterday, fully anticipating a severe scolding. These verses have more to do with the tip-toeing around God rather than moving with God. The classic clash between demand/expectation and outcome has been established and much of our narrative as humans will follow suite. When we know that we have done something wrong, it seems like it would be easier to hide and ignore the problem, but God addresses this by walking in the garden. Up to this point, God had no anthropomorphic features so for God to be on the move, walking in the garden was different. That is exactly the God we have, a God who desires to be with us because when we mess up and don't obey God's commands, God comes down to be with us. **Daily challenge:** *Move inward- Find ways to move into knowing yourself, allow your gifts and passions to be realized in all that you do. Move toward accepting yourself, just the way you are.*

Wednesday, March 20: Psalm 27

This Psalm of Confidence is the perfect psalm to read when you have obstacles before you. Take time to read the psalm twice, then highlight or write down one stanza that speaks to an obstacle you might be going through this week. Pause and know that God is moving with you past all obstacles.

Daily challenge: *Move outward- Find ways to assess the community you live, work and play in. Move out beyond yourself to help a neighbor, volunteer for an organization, or make connections that challenge your daily comfort.*

Thursday, March 21: Luke 13:22-30

As Jesus moves through each town and village and makes his way towards Jerusalem, the parable of the narrow door is shared. This narrow door reminds me of obstacle courses and the different challenges that accompany making it through the course. Jesus acts as a coach in the scripture, for how one can enter into the kingdom, but he leaves a lot of confusion on how persistent one should be and when to knock at the door. Through the many obstacles of Jesus' life, the biggest obstacle that we are still puzzled with is reversal, "Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last (v.30)." Spend time thinking about how God moves past all obstacles, how reversal is God's agent for change.

Daily challenge: *Move ofward (of the church) - Find and commit to ways to plug into the church and become a more committed follower of Jesus by your service to our local congregation. Move throughout the hallways and classrooms, praying for teachers, participants, and for the holy connection that happens when we share and learn about how God is moving in our church today.*

Friday, March 22: Luke 13:31-35

In today's scripture Jesus is warned by the Pharisees that Herod wants to kill him. Jesus sends them back to tell Herod "the fox" that he is busy doing ministry and then he will make his way to Jerusalem. This movement of Jesus casting out demons and performing cures that leads him into Jerusalem comes at a more politicized time. Jesus, the hen who wishes to gather all the children under her brood seems to be easy prey for the fox. On this Friday, continue to find signs of reversal and complexity in your midst. Imagine how Jesus shows up in your life in the most unconventional ways. **Daily challenge:** *Move into Wholeness- Throughout the week you have been challenged to move upward, inward, outward and ofward. Today, reflect on how each of these movements has helped you to welcome wholeness in life and relationships. As you journey throughout Lent, God will continue to purify you and put a new and right spirit within you.*