

SERMON MESSAGE FOR APRIL 27/28, 2019

Pastor Dennis Keating
Annual Meeting Weekend
Focused on God's Faithfulness
Hebrews 13:7-8 (p. 1029)

MAIN LESSON → Every new story _____ with an _____.

WRITE A NEW STORY BY ...

1. Remembering God's _____ in the _____.
(13:7; 2 Tim. 4:2)

THE REMINDER → Gifted _____ are given as expressions of God's
_____ to His church. (Eph. 4:11-12)

2. Taking _____ of faith in the _____.
(13:7; 1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 11:6)

3. Focusing on _____ in the _____.
(13:8)

OUR CHALLENGE → Keep our eyes on the _____
of the church. (Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:3; Micah 7:18)

FROM APRIL 27/28, 2019 SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SERMON-BASED LIFE GROUPS

Personal preparation: Read the passage, review your outline, and think through the questions. With your group, watch the video blog together (www.efcc.org/video-blog).

CONNECTING

1. "Every new story begins with an ending." What are one or two beginnings that come to mind? What ending preceded it? What did you learn and how did you grow through that transition?

GROWING

2. When you think of instances of God's provision in your past, what comes to mind? (verse 7) Further, why is it important for you to spend time being mindful of, or thinking back on, these things?

3. We are called by God to take steps of faith in the present (verse 8).

a. As you think about our church, what are some current, present-day kinds of things for which you are trusting God? Why?

b. As you think about your own life, what are some current, present-day kinds of things for which you are trusting God? Why?

4. What does it mean for you to keep focusing on Jesus as you think about our church's future? As you think about your future or the future of your kids and grandkids? How does focusing on Him help you in these or other areas? (verse 8)

SHARING

5. What is at least one thing your group can pray with and for you, and then ask about, when you next meet?



For online sermon resources (audios, videos and study notes), scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet, or visit our web site at www.efcc.org/sermons.

EFCC Open Wi-Fi Password: **John3:16**

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(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)

"... to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:21

MAIN LESSON: Every new story **begins** with an **ending**.

WRITE A NEW STORY BY ...

1. Remembering God's **provision** in the **past**. (13:7; 2 Tim. 4:2)

"... preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2

THE REMINDER: Gifted **leaders** are given as expressions of God's **faithfulness** to His church. (Eph. 4:11-12)

"He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-12

2. Taking **steps** of faith in the **present**. (13:7; 1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 11:6)

"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

- Hire a Lead Pastor
- Write a new vision
- Increase ethnic integration
- Get younger in leadership
- Grow in financial stewardship
- Open our preschool

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him;" Hebrews 11:6

3. Focusing on **Jesus** in the **future**. (13:8)

OUR CHALLENGE: Keep our eyes on the **permanent Leader** of the church. (Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:3; Micah 7:18)

"... fixing our eyes on Jesus;" Hebrews 12:2

"... you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." 2 Corinthians 3:3

"He delights in unchanging love." Micah 7:18