

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class            on hold  
Morning Assembly    10:30  
Evening Assembly    5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class    6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

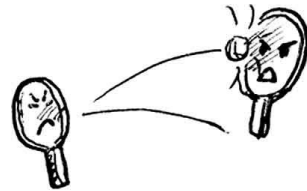
### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



Love is not just about  
how we act; it's about  
how we react.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
On Hold

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
On Hold

This info is provided  
to help everyone stay  
in synch during our  
three-year study thru  
the Bible (Sunday AM).

## FAMILY NEWS

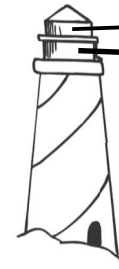
### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis,  
and Etta Frazelle            *Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey,  
Shirley Cole, & Billie Pennington            *Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins

**SUMMER DATES –** Our **VBS** is set for July 18-22 with Chris Reeves and  
our **Youth Lectures** are set for July 30-31 with Paul Sheehan. Plan ahead!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Emily Toland, who was recently baptized! Let's  
do all we can to encourage our teenagers in their walk with God!



## DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

March 28, 2021

## Grace Beyond the Numbers

*Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Mt 18:21-22).*

When Peter approached the subject of forgiveness from the 'numbers' angle, he was doing the same thing that the Rabbis of his day did. The common rabbinic view (based on Amos 2:6) was that forgiveness was required only three times; so Peter must have thought himself merciful with his "seven".

The response of Jesus, while using yet another number, was obviously taking forgiveness out of the realm

of numbers. Just as the parable which followed contrasted the ten thousand talent debt of the tributary prince with the hundred denarii debt of the servant, the message had nothing to do with the numbers. The numbers were so far apart as to be beyond compare. Clearly, forgiveness is not about the numbers.

And I, for one, am glad. I'm glad the Lord is willing to forgive me as often as I need it, for I surpassed any quota long ago. It's not a license to play footsies with the devil, but it is another chance to get it right. And if we can appreciate a God beyond the numbers, we should be willing to do the same for others.    - *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Drive Like Your Children Live Here

In a recent trip to Lafayette, Louisiana, Norma Jean and I enjoyed walking to a park close to Kenny and April's house. Little Miles likes to be outdoors. Loves the park. And likes to go to a nearby "free library."

The "library" is a little free-standing house a block from the park. A lovely older couple built it and placed it in their side yard next to the street. There are always some children's books in it. And even a bench to sit down and read. So, when you're at the park Miles always says, "Go to the library?" So, of course, we go to the library. On this day there was a sign the owner had placed in his yard by the library. "Drive like your children live here" is such a clever way to make a serious point.

What the sign is really saying is don't speed. Act responsibly. Drive safely. Be alert. Don't take chances. Obey the law. Watch out for kids. It was also an attention getting device by using kids to remind adults of proper behavior. I'm reminded that Jesus often employed children to make serious points to His audience.

On one occasion the disciple asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" In response, Jesus called a little child to stand in their midst. And then proclaimed, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Then Jesus added these sobering words, "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a

large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matt 18:1-6)

Indeed, "Jesus loves the little children." He saw in them their pure hearts. Their innocence. Their joy. Their trust. Their warmth. Their humility. Their forgiveness. Their love. And they call upon us to be our best. Do our best. Give our best.

On another occasion, people were bringing their children to Jesus just so he could touch them and offer a blessing. Thinking that their Master had more important things to do than bother with kids, the disciples rebuked the parents for wasting Jesus' valuable time. Their interference "greatly displeased" Jesus and He in turn rebuked them.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it" (Mk. 10:14-15).

The message, "Drive like your children live here" is a good one. It's good to heed on the road; but it's also a great message for life. For the way we act toward children. And interact with them.

Children serve as a wonderful example and reminder of how we, as adults, ought to conduct ourselves. This sign might have other similar messages:  
"Live like your children live here."  
"Talk like your children live here."  
"Pray like your children live here."  
"Read like your children live here."  
"Act like your children live here."

Thanks for the reminder, Miles. You're already teaching your Papaw.

—Ken Weliever