

What did he do? Well, standing on the sidelines, when the ball came off the field, he kicked it over the fence. After all, they didn't let him play. Then for no reason, the boys yelled at him and laughed when he fell down.

Change isn't going to be easy for him. He has a hard time connecting his reactions to past hurt, influencing how others treat him today. When it doesn't go the way he desires, it isn't fair.

It is an age old problem. Jews and Samaritans experienced it with each other. Romans and Jews faced it. It doesn't take a lot of reading in Scripture to uncover the interaction.

Sometimes you see it in the suggestions of "calling down fire out of heaven", or perhaps in the interaction at a well in the middle of the day. What happens next isn't a call to arms. It isn't an effort to place things in their historical context. There is no adjudication of "fairness" or guilt or innocence.

Jesus always tells us to regulate ourselves. The admonition is always about "our reaction," not the other guys. Going the extra mile isn't done because it is fair, it is done because it is what you can do. Returning a blessing for a curse isn't because you deserved to be cursed, it is because you are called to bless.

It is tough to have a difficult history. It is tougher still to be blind to your obligations in the present. But remember, he is preparing you for your future.

Grace and Peace,

Carl

St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
St John, KS 67576

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.



St John Church of Christ
A Family of God

December 6, 2015

When he came to my office I remembered his mother, I had known her from a youth group 20+ years earlier. Life hadn't been easy for her, unpopular and desperate for attention. Usually the attention she had received had been for the wrong reasons, and ultimately unhealthy for her.

Now he was here. Some other kids had picked on him. Sometimes he was made fun of, other times he was ignored. His social skills were lacking, never knowing how to be included, so he either pushed his way in before being excluded or sat on the sidelines hoping for an invitation that never seemed to come. Life was difficult for this little boy.

As he told his story, his lip trembled, his eyes widened before his tears began, and his face brightly flushed. It was unfair he proclaimed, to be excluded and never given a chance. Now the little friends were picking on him, calling him names and laughing at him. It was clear from his story that he was the victim, an innocent victim of the cruelty of others.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
Afternoon Service—1:15 pm
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,
Terry Sallee, George Shelton
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel
TREASURER: Richard Breensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 6, 2015

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 56—Lord, We Praise You
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 6:19-21 (Ned Marks)
SONGS: No. 884—Earth Holds No Treasure
No. 864—Where the Gates Swing Outward Never
No. 666—I Am Thine, O Lord
No. 791—On Bended Knee
PRAYER: Tom Turner
SONG: No. 383—Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
COMMUNION: Gary Hornbaker
Stan Aldrich
Teddy Gingrich
Joe Cornwell
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 480—Blessed Assurance
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 922—Jesus Paid it all (vs 1)
PRAYER: Fred Johnson

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship today and hope that you will come again! Please stay for lunch right after services.

LADIES HOLIDAY BRUNCH

The ladies are invited to the home of Lory Scott on Saturday, December 19th, at 9:00 am for a Holiday Brunch. Please bring a gift to exchange (\$15 limit). No RSVP is needed—just come! Need a ride or want to carpool? Please contact Janet.



WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

- April 15-16; Hartman Arena, Wichita, KS
- Let Janet know if you want to be registered with the group who is going (we can get a discounted fee until January 31st)

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Ben and Baylee Sizemore and their families on the recent passing of two loved ones:

- Baylee's father, **Sonny Langford**; his funeral was Thursday in Pratt
- Ben's grandmother, **Nedra Sizemore**; her funeral was Wednesday in St John

Please pick up a **December calendar** today, as well as some **new directory pages**. Note that Cheyenne Holmes has a different cell phone # now.

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

Dan Hampton—surgery last week in Salina
Brenda Staub—found out last week she has thyroid cancer; treatment plans are being made
Alice Peden (mother of Karla Mead, minister's wife at Eastwood Church of Christ in Hutchinson) stomach cancer; in Norman, OK
Michelle Rose (Vanessa Roger's aunt) - in a nursing home for rehab
Marilyn Thornburg—recent knee surgery
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Josh Oakley (grandson of Bill Oakley) - recent heart transplant; making good progress
Donna Laudick (Marla's sister) - cancer; in remission
John Laudick (Marla's brother-in-law)
Pam Herrenbruck—cancer treatment
Jonathan Batten – chemotherapy
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Eldon Ivy (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
Myron Breensing (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Bonnie Guthrie (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead in Stafford
Laura Wyatt—Kenwood Plaza
Vic & Phyllis Staub – Kenwood Plaza

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

George Shelton 12/7