

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

The Suburban Connection

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Mrs. Ethel Holloway Turns "101"



Mrs. Ethel was born in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 20, 2022. She grew up in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina where she met her husband, A.L. Holloway, Jr.

Fun Facts:

- *She was married for 50 years before her husband passed away.
- *There are now 5 A.L. Holloways in her family.
- *She has 4 children and 11 grandchildren along with many great grandchildren.
- *She likes dancing and crocheting. She is very proud that she crocheted the Lord's Supper.
- *Her favorite food: Southern food seasoned with salt pork.
- *Her favorite Scripture: Psalm 23

Congratulations, Mrs. Ethel! You are a special part of our Suburban family! We love you!

Save the Date!

Promotion Day September 3rd

9:00 am
Sanctuary

Seniors Mtg. September 21st

11:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Men's Breakfast September 2nd & 16th

8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Women's Fall Bible Study September 14th

7:00 pm

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Sow Your Future Self: Why All Change Starts Today

By Joe Rigney with Desiring God Ministries

Most of us who read C.S. Lewis's stories for children growing up developed a secret wish to somehow get into Narnia. If we ever came across a wardrobe, we opened it, just in case it might lead to a snowy wood with a lamppost. We thought, "Wouldn't it be amazing to actually walk there?"

That feeling of expectation and hope is one we all feel. We feel it about many things when we are children. "Won't it be amazing when I can drive a car?" "Won't it be amazing when I go off to college?" And the longings continue into adulthood. "Won't it be amazing to be married?" "Won't it be amazing to have children?" "Won't it be amazing to move to that city, or be a part of that church, or have that opportunity?" We feel it about family vacations and promotions at work and a thousand other hopes. We imagine ourselves in some future desirable circumstances and thing, *Won't it be great when . . .*

Such feelings are, of course, often good and fitting. Frequently, the opportunities before us are genuinely desirable and exciting. We often find ourselves standing on the threshold of a wardrobe, with the dim light of a lamppost up ahead. One of the key lessons that Lewis wants to teach us in Narnia, however, is that our future joy is a function more of our present character and godliness than our future circumstances. We must keep in mind the example of Edmund Pevensie.

Miserable in Narnia?

Edmund's initial experience in Narnia was not a happy one. Upon entry, he immediately meets the White Witch. He eats her enchanted food. He goes over to her side.

When he enters the second time with his siblings, he accidentally lets slip that he had been there before, thus revealing that he lied to the others (at Lucy's expense). Peter sharply rebukes him, and Edmund responds with deep bitterness, saying to himself, "I'll pay you all out for this, you pack of stuck-up, self-satisfied prigs" (*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, 135). NO sorrow for his sin; just a hardening of his heart and a deepening malice toward his siblings.

You'll remember his reaction the first time he hears the name of Aslan. Mr. Beaver leans in and says, "Aslan is on the move" (146). Peter feels brave and adventurous. Susan feels as if a delicious smell has just gone past her. Lucy has the feeling we all have when we wake up and realize it's the first day of summer vacation. But what about Edmund? The mention of Aslan gives him a "mysterious and horrible feeling" (151). And so, he leaves his family and betrays them to the White Witch, deceiving himself into believing that she will make him king and he'll have his vengeance on Peter. To cap it off, he ends up whipped and tied to a tree with the Hitch's knife at his throat.

So then, Edmund's story chastens our sense of expectation. "Wouldn't it be great if we could get into Narnia?" Maybe not.

Sowing Our Future Selves

Edmund's story is more than simply a series of unfortunate events. The tragedy that befalls him is the result of the kind of person he is. And he was already becoming that kind of person on this side of the wardrobe. Before he ever entered Narnia, Edmund was spiteful and beastly to younger children, disrespectful to his older siblings, cruel to his sister, and insincere in his apologies.

In itself, entering Narnia did nothing to change that. He simply continued down the path of cruelty, bitterness, and misery. And this is Lewis's point: we are always becoming who we will be. We are always sowing the seeds of our future selves. Right this minute, we are headed somewhere, and sooner or later, we will arrive. The decisions we make today will inevitably shape the person we are tomorrow. continued inside . . .

Belong Women's Ministry

Hi Ladies,

I'm so excited about what we are going to learn in our fall Bible study. Do you ever get bogged down by the daily small tasks we do? Do you ever think that these small things "don't matter?" I think we are all going to be amazed at how God loves small things (Luke 16:10). The Son of God, who "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped," even became small to save us (Philippians 2:6-8). That's a **WOW!**



Join me and the Belong Gang as we walk this journey together and see just how much the little things count! Don't forget to purchase your study guide before our first get together on **Thursday, September 14th**, at 7:00 pm. There will also be a day session for those of you who do not like to drive at night.

Joyfully,

Wendy Haynes



Seniors Ministry

At our seniors meeting, we enjoyed Derick Blumenthal explaining the Jewish fall holy days. All three are symbolized by a Jewish wedding. The seriousness of God's love for us is indicated by our engagement being an actual signed contract.

Rosh Hashanah is a ten-day period of calling us to repentance. Immediately following is Yom Kippur (24 hours of fasting). Jubilee is an event that occurred every fifty years that cancelled all debts and freed all slaves (Leviticus 23:33). The bride is accepted five days later at Sukkot, and people build booths in celebration of deliverance from Egypt.

These celebrations show our need to admit and confess our sins, accept His deliverance, and look ahead by faith to eternal bliss as the bride of Christ.

The meeting was followed by a delicious lunch, but the fellowship was even better.

Join us at our September meeting on **Thursday, September 21st**, as Ron Raymer shares a travelogue of his trip to Germany and Austria. Maria, along with her Italian friends, will be providing an authentic Italian lunch for us to enjoy. You will not want to miss it!

We love Him because He first loved us,
Larry Thomas



FALL FESTIVAL



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

**HOT DOGS, POPCORN, TRUNK OR TREAT, INFLATABLES,
FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

SCC Church Staff



Rev. C. Todd Haynes
Senior Pastor



MISSION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

To glorify God, by making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

VISION: WHAT WILL THAT LOOK LIKE?

A growing faith in God
A growing love for God
A growing love for others

ACTION: HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Drawing near to God
Pursuing community
Reaching our world

Visit us on Facebook! Search for "Suburban Christian Church" on www.facebook.com

We want to hear from you! Contact us at newsletter@sccvb.org

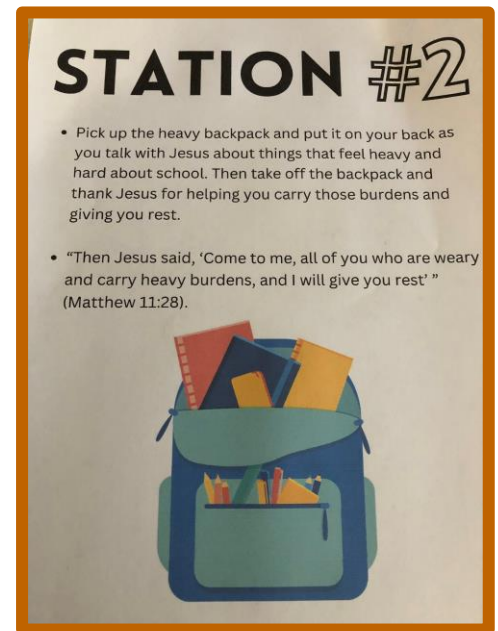
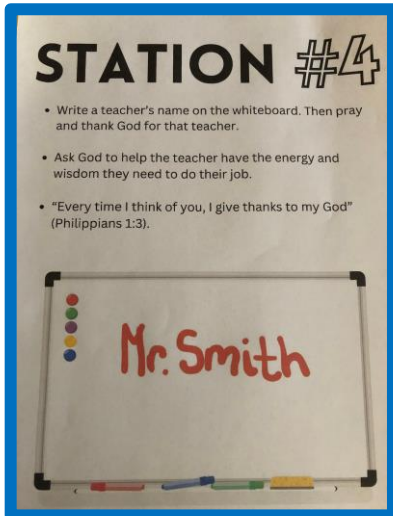
What's Happening In.... Suburban Kids

Sunday School

This past month, children from 1st grade to High School were involved in praying for the start of their school year. Carol Brooks, one of our 3rd-5th grade teachers, got the idea from Group Publishing and forwarded it to me. I immediately loved the idea of our children strengthening their prayer lives. They prayed through 5 stations which included:

1. People they will see each day at school (principals, cafeteria workers and crossing guards)
2. God's help to carry heavy burdens they might encounter this year
3. God's help to be a good friend
4. Their teachers
5. Praise, thanking God in advance for all the good things they will enjoy this year

Please join us in prayer for the up-coming school year. If you haven't committed to being a part of our Sunday School hour, this would be a great time to start! Laura Tyler



Please remember to pray for our Sunday School teachers as our children move up to their new classes on September 3rd.

Our classes and teachers are:

Pre-School and Kindergarten:
Kathy Herring and Christopher Bulaski

First - Second Grades:
Robert Ramirez and Mary Justis

Third - Fifth Grades:
Lou Miller and Carol Brooks

Middle School:
Jim Fry and Nancy Daniels

High School:
Chris Mowery



*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12*



Nursery Ministry

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	Helper
9/3/23	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Ravyn Thomas Stacie Raymer	Elena Tyler
9/10/23	Melissa Tucker Betty Owens	Jeff Herring Susan Haynes	Samara Saucedo
9/17/23	Stacey Super	Nancy Herbst Christopher Bulaski	Liam Cooke
9/24/23	Melissa Tucker	Laura Tyler Teresa Birk	William Schnurr

Nursery Volunteers Needed

The Suburban nursery is bustling once again during the Sunday school hour and the 10:15 church service. Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who care for the young children. Anyone who is interested in helping one Sunday per month during Sunday school or church service, please contact Stacie Raymer (sraymer@odu.edu; 757-589-5731). Young teenage helpers are also welcomed to help. "But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matt 19:14)

Children's Church Ministry

Children's church has been busy and hard at work continuing their lessons about the Armor of God. This past month we learned about the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, Fitted Feet, and the Shield of Faith. We have enjoyed play acting the scenes from the Bible that go with each lesson and choosing our favorite Bible verses. The students really liked Romans 16:20 "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." We've enjoyed lots of games as well. Hopscotch was one of our favorites, and a new game to many of us! During the month of September, we will be taking a break to strengthen our children's church ministry. Please pray for the children's church leadership as we make plans for the fall and for the new volunteers joining the team. All students (grades K – 3) are invited to join us the first Sunday of October. We look forward to seeing you! Mary Justis



Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study and Prayer Breakfast

September 2 and 16, 2023

I Samuel 22 & 23

Last month's study in I Samuel concluded with Chapter 21 with David on the run from King Saul's intent to kill him because of his jealous anger against him for his growing popularity with the people. With a touch of irony, the young shepherd boy (who was armed only with faith in God) boldly confronted the Philistines' heavily armed champion, Goliath, with only a slingshot and a stone. After killing him, David took the giant's head with his own sword which was now presented to him by his protector, the priest, Ahimelech. One can only imagine the thoughts, perhaps even shame, that entered David's mind as he took the sword and *"rose and fled that day from Saul (21:1)."*

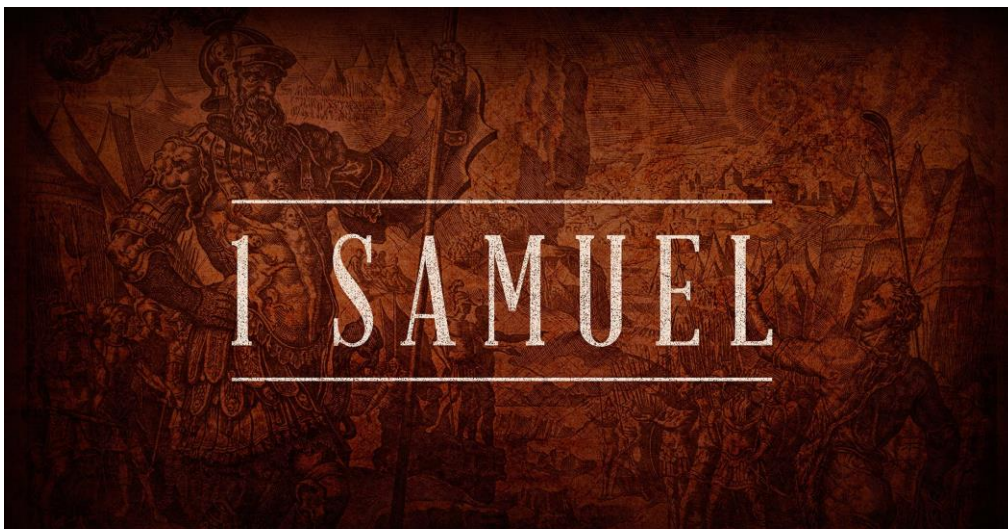
This month, on September 2nd, the study will continue with Chapter 22 with David still in flight. Gad, a special prophet for David (2 Samuel 24:11) was introduced and the tragic results of Ahimelech's protection of David was revealed: Then the King (Saul) said to Doeg (introduced in Chapter 21 as *"chief of Saul's herdsmen"*), *"You turn and strike the priest. And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests . . . and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword . . ."* (22: 18-19)

On September 16th, the study will center on Chapter 23 and David's continued attempts to escape from Saul as he fled into the Judean wilderness. The first account took place in Keilah and then follows David as he was pursued by Saul as far as the Dead Sea and the strongholds of the oasis, En Gedi. Through it all, the Scripture reinforced God's continued protection of David.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study is an outstanding opportunity for the study of God's Word, prayer, and fellowship for men of all ages; church members and non-members. The breakfast and the Bible study are open to all men, and all are invited to enjoy a good, homemade breakfast of eggs (scramble and fried), sausage, corned beef hash, pancakes, waffles, biscuits, grits, sausage gravy, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. Come and enjoy good fellowship, and the Good News found in God's Word. It all begins at 8:00 AM and concludes around 9:30, or so.

Bob Grymes

PLEASE JOIN US



Continued from "The Pastor's Desk . . ."

Elsewhere, Lewis puts it this way:

"Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: That is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other." (*Mere Christianity*, 90)

This means that, when we look to the future, we can ask ourselves some probing questions about the present. Where am I compromising? Am I nursing small grievances, the kind that grow and fester into hatred of those closest to me? Do I treat those around me with respect and kindness, or do I love to show off my own perceived superiority? When I wrong someone, do I repent thoroughly, seek forgiveness sincerely, make restitution quickly, and then move on properly? And what about our lives in the digital age and what I do on and with my screens? What am I clicking on and searching for? On what content do I push play (and ask for more)? How am I being shaped by and through technology and my devices?

Given the present trajectory of my life, what would happen if I should find myself stumbling through the wardrobe into Narnia? Would I be likely to meet a faun who becomes a friend, or a Witch who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy me? Given the kind of person that I am right now becoming, what would be my reaction if I heard Aslan's name for the first time?

Growing Weary in Good

This lesson, or course, is not original to Lewis. Two thousand years earlier, the apostle Paul says the same: "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:7-9

Don't be deceived. We all are tempted to believe that we can sow seeds of sin, and still reap a harvest of blessing, that we can sow envy and strife and worldliness and laziness and lust and pride, and still reap a harvest of joy and life and fruitful relationships. But God is not mocked. So, we must take care how we sow. We must sow to the Spirit **now**, in the present, using our God-given and grace-empowered hearts and minds to love him and our neighbor.

What's more, we must not grow weary in doing good. And let's be honest, it's easy to grow weary in doing good. The natural bent of our fallen nature is very Edmund-like. To persist in showing kindness, to persevere in love to God and neighbor when we are tired and spent and stressed, is not easy. Our flesh is weak. Over time, even the most willing spirits can lapse and leak.

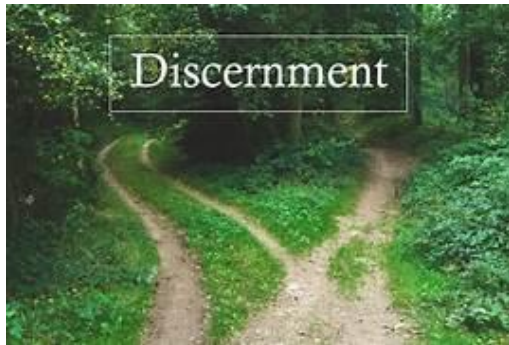
And so, we labor in our sowing **today**. We cultivate faith in Christ, obedience to God, and love for others **today**, right now, in this very moment. We plant the seeds of our future joy in the Spirit's soil, trusting that God is faithful and the harvest will be glorious.

Reaping What He Sowed

The path of obedience is rarely easy. And more importantly, as Lewis shows us in the story of Edmund, failure does not have to be the end of the story. Sowing leads to reaping, but the good news of the gospel is that Jesus reaps what we have sown. Failures can be forgiven, and traitors can be redeemed.

So, as you stand on the threshold of whatever wardrobe God has set before you, remember that the world will conspire to draw you aside with its false promises and Turkish Delight. But Jesus is real, his blood is potent, and he is with you and for you. Seek him above all else, sow to his Spirit now, and trust that in due season his Father will bring forth the harvest.

Ambassador Youth Ministry



The Issue: Discernment

With school beginning in just a few days, let's investigate the topic of discernment. Discernment in the spiritual sense refers to the ability to recognize truth from error. When considering the variety of opinions and beliefs in our culture today, the need to screen out what is false and accept what is true becomes clear!

*What does the Bible say? Note God's warning and advice concerning false teaching:

- > II Corinthians 11:13-15 – Satan appears at times as an angel of light, so just because something sounds right doesn't mean it is right.
- > I John 4:1 – Many false teachers are in the world, so we must learn to "test the spirits" (evaluate what we hear).

*How do we know what is really true?

- > John 17:17 – Thy Word (the Bible) is truth; we can rely on it.
- > Hebrews 4:12 – God's Word is the key to revealing what is right.



*What is the end result of discerning what we hear?

- > Ephesians 4:14 – We will not fall for everything we hear.
- > Hebrews 5:13-14 – It is a sign (evidence) of spiritual maturity.

What should I do? Many people are quick to accept a belief because it "sounds good" or because it is popular. However, we are told to be grounded in the truth, not popular opinions! We must be careful about what we listen to, for when we are not careful, it can be easy to be deceived. God calls us to filter what we hear and be able to distinguish right from wrong. That is the key to standing for truth! And it starts with being rooted and established in God's Word. (Acts 17:11; Colossians 2:7-8)

minibiblelessons.com

AYM September Calendar

6:00 pm in Youth Room

**Denotes Saturday night*

September 2nd: Derrick & Chandra Sloan

September 10th: Flag Football Night

September 16th: Devin Calhoun

September 24th: NO AYM

October 1st: Mason Thomas





Music Notes

Wasn't our second Praise and Worship Night a wonderful event? We had a great group of people and a great choice of songs to sing. Then we had GREAT ice cream and fellowship to follow. Thank you to everyone who sang, played an instrument or brought and served ice cream for making the night a success!

Throughout my Christian life, like many of you, I have treasured the historic hymns of the church. We've committed many of them to memory and they have become our companions in dark times and our encouragers in times of celebration. I never fail to find

from these timeless statements of faith. The church will continue to sing her stately hymns, but, in addition, each new generation continues to compose fresh choruses of worship and new psalms of praise. No longer is the singing of these choruses relegated to youth. All of God's people are now joining the song . . . and when such blended, combined singing is enjoyed alongside great preaching, it is a contagious combination.

Please join in the singing each Sunday and if you are so inclined, come out on Tuesday nights to sing with the choir. We will begin Christmas music soon. Pray about getting involved in sharing God's love through music. See you in church. Lynn Cooke

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation! Psalm 95:1*



Food Pantry Ministry

The food pantry is a great way to reach out to our community beyond these walls. The items we always need are peanut butter (16oz) and Jelly, spaghetti noodles (16 oz), and spaghetti sauce, cereal (12-17 oz box), canned tuna or chicken, and pudding or Jello boxes. All donations are welcome and used, but as we are constrained by the size and weight of the bags we give, the size you donate can be important.

We will be gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday soon. I know! Seems like we just started this year, doesn't it? The food pantry team says **"Thank you"** for your generous support!

Amie Mitchell



Operation Christmas Child Corner

We had a good turnout for our **Christmas in August** luncheon. Thank you to the church and the ladies of the workshop group for providing the food. And thanks to everyone who brought an item to help fill the shoeboxes. The testimonies we saw and heard on the video were interesting and inspiring. Knowing the effect that a simple gift filled shoebox can have on someone's life is unimaginable. Keep up the good work. Keep praying and looking for ways that you can be a part of this ministry.

Our collection items for September are **TOOTHBRUSHES, SOCKS, AND GLOVES**. We are going to have to begin filling some of the empty boxes soon to get a head start on the number that have to be filled.

Don't forget that the suggested donation to help with shipping and handling for each shoebox is **\$10**. This is part of the gift and goes a long way to spread the word of God. Think of creative ways to save the money; like keeping all your change for the shoeboxes, or setting aside the cost of one coffee, soda or lunch out a week. You'll be surprised how quickly you'll have \$10 to add to the collection for that need.

Thanks for supporting the outreach to needy children all over the world.

Lynn and the team



Good News Car Care Ministry



God provided wonderful weather for our first Good News Car Care Ministry led by Pete Schnurr. A few months ago, Pete and Sarah met with Pastor Todd and Wendy with the idea of providing free oil changes and a courtesy inspection for those in need and for the AYM Ministry to provide a free car wash after the oil change . . . (with donuts and coffee as a treat while you wait). It was decided that the families that come to our Food Pantry Ministry would be the target for the initial start. Amie Mitchell helped pass along the information for those interested. We had 4 people to sign up! Pete, along with his crew of William, Nathaniel, Elijah, and Abby, made the Suburban parking lot a garage with supplies ready for the oil changes. Pastor Todd and Wendy provided the donuts and got things ready for the car wash. We would like thank Jack and Elena Tyler, Mason (and Micah), Sophia Deuell and the little Schnurr children for their participation in the car wash. Mrs. Amie even brought us some fresh watermelon to enjoy! We would also like to thank those who came for the car wash with unexpected donations for the Car Care Ministry. If you would like to donate funds to help with our Food Pantry and Car Care Ministry, please write a check to Suburban Christian Church with the ministry designated on the memo line.



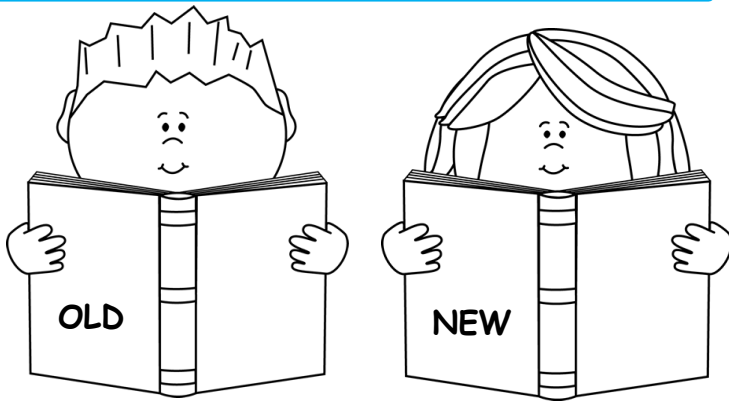
Suburban Kids

fun page

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Who wrote the book of Genesis?

Is the book of Genesis found in the Old Testament or New Testament? Color the picture below to show your answer.

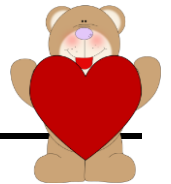


Look in Genesis 1 and write down all the things God created.

Day 1 _____
Day 2 _____
Day 3 _____
Day 4 _____
Day 5 _____
Day 6 _____
What did God do on the 7th day? _____

Draw a picture of the earth

How does this verse show me God loves me?





Write the verse and reference in your favorite color.
