



SEEDS NEWSLETTER

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MEET THE FAMILY

Three New Members

Noah commutes to church from his home in Frankfort. He began attending here following an invitation from Hannah Kim.

He is finishing an elementary education degree at WKU and looks forward to soon begin teaching.

Noah was saved at Hope Community Church in Frankfort in 2018 at the age of 13.

Noah Tigges



Zandra Lile

Zandra lives in Lawrenceburg. She heard about our church through Brayden Foster and his family who had visited us when we were located on Paris Pike, and has been attending here for several months.



Her salvation experience was unusual. In answer to a question about how she met Jesus Christ as her Savior, she said she had been thinking about her beliefs and her relationship with God for some time, until one day at work, not long ago, it all came together in her mind.

She quietly prayed right there. “So you might say I was saved at the office!” She was baptized in June.

We’re glad to welcome her as part of our church family.

Brayden Foster

He proposed to Zandra on July 25. She said yes!

In April this year Brayden prayed for salvation while at a family Easter celebration. His papaw shared his testimony about how he was broken in his youth and far from Christ, until he experienced the joy of knowing that his sins were forgiven.

Brayden responded by thinking about his own life and how much he needed to change if he wanted things to go right in his future. Turning to Jesus was a major step that led to him joining our church. He was baptized on April 26.

He and Zandra met in Versailles in the summer of 2025, introduced by her sisters who were friends with Brayden.

He works at Roark Machining and Fabrication in Georgetown.



PERSPECTIVE

WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD?

Pastor Zach Kirchner presents a fresh perspective that will strengthen your faith —and assist in evangelizing Jehovah's Witnesses with their own words. (This is Part Two of the article that appeared in the June issue).

So which is it? Did God raise Jesus from the dead, or did Jesus raise himself?

Obviously, we affirm that both are true *because we affirm the doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ* (i.e., Jesus is God). God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus raised himself from the dead. Although it is impossible to reconcile these truths in our finite minds, both of these statements are true from Scripture! As we noted earlier, we can find passages in which Jesus explicitly claims to be God or in which someone else testifies that he is God (Jn 10:30; Jn 1:1). But doing good Bible study includes looking at the specific language of a passage. Careful study often rewards us with nuanced, encouraging support for those things which we initially accepted by faith! This is what I was talking about when I said that we should grow beyond “proof texts.” We should get to the point where we find these little nuggets of truth and doctrine in our daily time in the Word. There’s a *richness* and a *depth* to those discoveries, and they bring tremendous confidence and satisfaction.

But how does all of this relate to Jehovah’s Witnesses? In the mid-1900s, they published their New World Translation (NWT), a heretical “translation.” Because they do not believe that Jesus is God (a heresy called Arianism), the NWT notoriously alters passages that we would use to show someone that Jesus is God. Perhaps most popular among these altered passages is John 1:1, which, in the NWT, reads this way: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God” (underlining mine). They add the indefinite article “a” in an effort to eliminate Jesus’ deity. Their understanding of the Greek is flawed, and their efforts are futile. Regardless, their translation says what it says.

This makes me ask a question in my mind: “Even though they’ve removed or altered key passages, could I prove to a Jehovah’s Witness that Christ is God based on other passages *from their very own ‘translation’?*” The answer? A resounding YES! Because your confidence in particular doctrines rests not only on proof texts, you can show them evidence of doctrines throughout Scripture. In the case of the deity of Christ, I would turn to the exact passages we just looked at, *and I would do it in their very own “translation.”*

Take them in Acts to the many occurrences that point to God being the one who raised Jesus from the dead. I’ve already checked the NWT for you, and all twelve of those passages in Acts speak of God raising Jesus up from the dead. After looking at a few of those, take them to John 2:19 — again, *in their own translation*. John 2:19 in the NWT says, “Jesus replied to them: ‘Tear down this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’” It is unlikely that you will fully convince them of their error, but only God knows how your knowledge of the Bible may shake their already-precarious foundation and point them to the truth — Jesus Christ is God!

I conclude with two thoughts. First, Scripture is AMAZING. You should be extraordinarily encouraged that God has kept his promise that he will preserve his word. His Word will never fail, *even when evil men try to twist Scripture!* Because Satan, his demons, and wicked men are finite, they are not able to catch every spot where the truth brightly shines through the bog of confusion. Be encouraged by Scripture’s divine Author and Preserver! Second, the Old and New Testaments attest that those who humbly seek the Lord and his Word so that they may know and love God *will be rewarded*. Therefore, read the Word diligently. These truths are not always easy to find, but if we will read purposefully, devoting serious attention to the Word, the Lord will reward us for our diligence. Reading Scripture carefully and deeply will strengthen your faith, and it will give you a weapon that you can use to fight against the powers of darkness.

“God raised Jesus” passages in Acts — 2:24,32; 3:15, 26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 33, 34, 37; 17:31

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Our New Building is Happening!



The picture above shows Wes Wade and Joe Rincon leveling the ground where the modular building once stood. Joe must have upset Wes?

The picture at left shows tons of steel being delivered for the frame of the new building.

Local World Cup! (*Almost...*)

On a hot summer evening in the middle of July, around 30 parents and children took to the pitch at the soccer complex on Lisle Road to prove their athletic prowess. Most played, some spectated, but all had a great evening celebrating the World Cup by playing the “Beautiful Game” with their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.



Slip-n-Slide Baseball (Kickball).

The Youth Group under the leadership of Coach Joe Rincon threw themselves (literally) into a new sport that is predicted (?) to soon dominate the world of baseball—*slip-n-slide kickball*—(a good kick replaces a bat). The pictures tell the story.



Base running.



Yer out!



Safe!

ENCOUNTERS:

LIVING AS A CHRISTIAN IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

*Here we share anecdotes from church members, telling their experiences as Christians living in a world that is indifferent to the Gospel and Christian values in general. This month's contribution from **SHANE COLVIN** addresses the problem of living with a 24-hour news cycle and social media gossip.*

The explosion of social media in the last fifteen years brought FOMO with it —Fear Of Missing Out! Wikipedia defines FOMO as the feeling of apprehension that one is either not in the know about, or missing out on, information, events, experiences, or decisions that could improve your life or make it more interesting.

Maybe it's missing that sporting event of your favorite team, or a birthday party invite, or taking that trip you've heard everyone talking about, or some other social event: at some point we have all probably suffered from a little FOMO.

But Christians should have different priorities and a different impact. We should be walking testimonies to the world about a God in Heaven that sent his Son to die on a cross for our sins. Our lives should speak volumes to unbelievers and believers alike about what they are missing both here on Earth and in our future Heavenly Home.

Jesus said, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). The word abundantly here means exceeding, extraordinary, and over and above what is necessary. Who wouldn't want that!?

Does your life cast a certain FOMO to the unbelieving co-worker, neighbor, or stranger on the street? How about to the Church member you sit beside on Sunday's? If not, what may be casting a shadow over that inner light?

May we forever be a body of Christ that invokes FOMO in everyone we cross paths with, day in and day out!

BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*In this section we answer questions about Bible doctrines or texts or Church life or Christian life in general. If you have a question that you think may prompt an answer helpful to yourself and to the church family in general, please let us know. This month **Pastor Fannin** answers the question: What is the most important lesson to learn from the life of Lot? The answer:*

A COST NOBODY WARNS YOU ABOUT!

There's a name in 2 Peter chapter two that seems entirely out of place. Peter writes to end-time believers, reminding us that God knows how to deliver the righteous from wickedness. Three examples are given: holy angels versus fallen angels, righteous Noah in a depraved world, and righteous Lot.

If you read only the New Testament, you simply take Peter's word for it. But if you are familiar with the story of Lot in Genesis, the description of him as *righteous* comes as a surprise! Lot was the man who pitched his tent toward Sodom, the man whose wife turned to salt, whose daughters seduced him, whose entire life reads like a cautionary tale. There is a great lesson in the tension between what Peter calls Lot, and how he lived.

Lot's story begins with real promise. His father died young, and Lot drew close to the household of his grandfather, Terah, and his uncle, Abram (Gen. 11:27–31). When God called Abram to the Land of Promise, Lot *heard that call* and followed Abram.

Clearly, Lot was a man of faith, responding to the divine summons that shaped Abraham. He left the security of an established home for an unknown destination, alongside a man learning to walk with God. So where did he go wrong?

It began almost imperceptibly when Lot followed Abram from the Promised Land to Egypt in a time of famine (Gen. 12:10–13:4). It was Abram's choice, but Lot decided to go along. It seems such a small thing. There was no dramatic

rebellion against God. No outright sin. Just a decision to follow Abram's compromise instead of staying in God's place of promised blessing.

Scripture is consistent on this point: when a person of faith abandons the place of God's blessing for convenience or in response to a particular circumstance, negative consequences follow. They may not be immediately apparent, but they will come.

The consequences recorded in Genesis 13 began to surface as friction arose between Abram and Lot's herdsmen over grazing rights for their livestock. The two men agreed to separate. Abram gave Lot the first choice of land, and he looked toward the Jordan Valley — green, well-watered, and prosperous. It reminded him of the land of Egypt (Gen. 13:10), a place that had satisfied his natural appetites. He "pitched his tent" toward Sodom, a city identified in Genesis 13:13 as home to *"the men of Sodom [who] were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."*

Lot chose Sodom anyway. Not because he loved wickedness, but because his spiritual priorities had gone quiet while his natural desires grew louder. J.B. Phillips comments: *He was weak in his devotion and worldly in his desires.* The last place he should have chosen became the place he wanted to be!

What followed was not freedom. It was torment. 2 Peter 2:7–8 reveals that Lot was *vexed* — the Greek word means "tormented" — by what he saw and heard every day in Sodom. His wife became a socialite there. His daughters grew fluent in Sodomite culture. The chains of that city's sin bound him. The great paradox of worldly living is that lack of restraint is a shackle placed by the devil on a liberated follower of Christ.

Lot was especially tormented by *"the filthy conversation of the wicked"* (2 Pet. 2:7). The Greek word for *conversation* is *anastrophē*, meaning *manner of life*, or in modern terms, *lifestyle*. The word for *filthy* is *aselgeia*, *that is*, wantonness, licentiousness, or an insolent disregard for decency.

Lot hated it. But he stayed. Phillips makes a powerful observation here: Lot had chosen the world, so God let him have the world — and its chains. (Many a Christian today knows what that feels like).

When judgment at last fell on Sodom, God's angels had to physically pull Lot out of the city (Gen. 19:16), but he hesitated even then. His sons-in-law laughed at

him. His wife looked back and was lost. He finally arrived in a place of safety with nothing — no family, no fortune, and no future to speak of.

Yet Peter calls him "just Lot" — *righteous* Lot — not because his behavior earned him that title, but because in his heart of hearts, he was aligned with God. He had come by faith to share the blessing of Abraham. His soul was secure even when his life was a wreck.

Consider the contrast with Noah, whose status before God was immediately recognized in Scripture: "*Noah was a just man*" (Gen. 6:9). For Lot, however, the verdict was delayed more than two thousand years because his backsliding had buried his righteousness under decades of compromise.

God saved Lot, not because he was better than the Sodomites but because he belonged to God, however poorly his life reflected that relationship. His recognition by Peter is not to mark him as a hero, but as a warning and a symbol of God's mercy. His soul was saved but his life was wasted.

The lesson for us is not that worldly living will cost you your salvation, but that it will cost you *everything else*.

J.B. Phillips frames the decisive question this way: *Is it to be heaven or hell?* Once you settle that, a second question immediately follows: *Is it to be heaven or earth?* The devil would love you to ignore the second question as not mattering and live as you please. Lot's life proves otherwise.

Scripture warns: "*If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (1 John 2:15). The world is the sworn enemy of God, who expresses His love by not permitting one of His own to live indefinitely without consequences like one of the Devil's own.

Living like the world leads to punishment with the world, at a cost far higher than we can imagine!