

# SERMON BASED CURRICULUM



## **Date & Sermon Series:**

June 6/7, 2015; A Trip Around the Sun

## **Speaker:**

Dr. Bob Rhoden

**Scripture Focus:** John 1:43-46; John 19:19; Romans 12:1-2; and Ephesians 5:15-17

## **Note To Leaders:**

This weekend we discussed how to understand our “From” and use it to inform us as we move forward toward our “To.” These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion. Don’t feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don’t have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

**Icebreaker Suggestions:** Dr. Rhoden shared with us that his grandmother frequently warned him to “watch out for alligators, Bobby,” when he went swimming in Ocean Pond. What warning do you remember hearing frequently when you were growing up?

## **Sermon Series Questions:**

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend’s message?
3. What do you think God is teaching you during this “trip around the sun?”

## **Specific Questions:**

1. Dr. Rhoden shared with us what defines his “From.” What are five things (people, places, or experiences) that define your “From.”
2. Dr. Rhoden stated that, “God wants to do more through you than anyone can do to you.” What is your response to this statement? Does it challenge the way you engage with your work, family or community?
3. Max Lucado said, “your life has a plot; your years have a theme.” What is your theme for 2015? If you do not yet have one, does this quote encourage you to seek one from God? What would you like it to be?

4. Dr. Rhoden shared how Jesus gives us all the opportunity to change hope from a verb to a noun. Rather than “hoping” for something, we have a hope in the thing, Christ himself. Have you experienced the shifting of hope from a verb to a noun? If not, is this a concept you believe? If so, when did hope become something more for you? How did that experience change your life?
5. In Romans 12:1 we are called to be living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. The Apostle Paul is appealing to us for a life that aligns to the will and control of God. We all have areas where we struggle to give complete control to the Lord. In which area are you struggling the most to give God control? What would it look like to start taking small steps toward giving God control?
6. Dr. Rhoden talked about adding a gift theology (Romans 12:6) to his consecration theology (Romans 12:1-2). This is the truth that God has given us each a set of gifts according to *His* grace, to be used for *His* glory. Have you identified your giftings? If so, how have you used them well to this point and in what ways could you be a better steward of them? If not, what steps could you take in determining what your gifts are?
7. We are called to believe that “God will bring just the right things into our life at just the right moment.” Can you think of a time when God’s timing made complete sense, even if only in hindsight? How did this grow your faith?
8. Dr. Rhoden shared, “I don’t fear failure, but that I might succeed in things that don’t matter.” How do you relate to this statement? Now read Romans 12:2; Are there areas where you are succeeding but conforming to the pattern of this world?

**Challenge:**

Read & Pray: Pray through Ephesians 5:15-17 and reflect on what promptings of the Holy Spirit you need to respond to.

Act: Dr. Rhoden challenged us to walk in the season of our calling, to become a lifelong learner and to finish strong. He shared that we can start doing this by making the most of every *kairos* moment, meaning the moments we are prompted by the Holy Spirit. We all have missed many of these moments in our lives while being trapped by our “from,” but the truth is Christ has set us free! Commit today to seize these moments as opportunities to glorify God and shape your “to.”