



# GROW OUT

Sunday, August 15, 2021

I became a follower of Jesus when I heard someone a few years older tell me at our church: “God loves you and I love you.” These “witnesses” were total strangers. I thought they were weird. I had never heard anything like that before. We did not use that kind of language ... anywhere. It was confusing and deeply troubling. That weekend experience (called a “Lay Witness Mission”) did not teach Bible trivia, but the result was I had a personal experience with Jesus. **God’s love transformed my heart: “God loves you and I love you.”** Until that weekend, our youth group was just a fun gathering of kids my age where I found a place to fit in. Larry and Verla Richardson were our volunteer youth sponsors. Not only did my sister Kathy and I have conversion experiences, but my parents and the Richardsons did, too. Overnight, we went from a group of kids having fun to a group of people with a brand-new identity in Christ. **A new and better way replaced my old life.** Had my parents not insisted that I attend that weekend experience in April 1969, chances are slim I would be in ministry today. Had it not been for those witnesses who came to Rose Hill UMC in Tulsa that weekend when I was 14, we would not have found faith.



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# APPLICATION:

All our experiences are different. What is your story? When have you felt God's love? How have you opened your heart to the Lord? Is there someone you would like to talk to? How are you sharing your faith with others?



## MESSAGE

Acts 1:6-11

Senior Pastor  
Tom Harrison

## SCRIPTURE READINGS:

OUTREACH  
PAYS ATTENTION

**AUGUST 16** Matthew 9:35-38

**AUGUST 17** Matthew 22:1-14

**AUGUST 18** Mark 4:21-25

**AUGUST 19** Acts 8:4-13

**AUGUST 20** Hebrews 2:1-4

**AUGUST 21** James 2:1-7

## WAYS TO GIVE:



**Electronic Giving**  
[myasburytulsa.org](http://myasburytulsa.org)

**Online Bill Pay**  
Name and address  
on the check



**Mobile:**  
Text the word  
"asburygive"  
to 73256



**Cash or Check:**  
Offering box  
or any time in  
the main office or  
the South Guest  
Services Desk.



**FIRST  
TIME  
GUESTS**

Please stop by any Guest Services Desk for a special gift.

# SUNDAY MORNING



 **ASBURY Kids**

**9:30 & 11 am**



 **ASBURY STUDENTS**

**9:30 am**  
Asbury Students Center



 **Discipleship Communities**

**8, 9:30 & 11 am**  
Check [asburytulsa.org/communities](http://asburytulsa.org/communities) for full listing



**ASBURY Kids**

## TODAY IN ALL THREE SERVICES

### Bibles and Blessings CELEBRATION

Kindergarten Bibles & Blessings is a yearly, special, one-of-a-kind moment in Sunday worship services, yet transformative for an entire child's life.

An adored tradition in Methodist Churches, this presentation of Scripture is a lifelong investment to prepare your children for reading in general and to begin relying on God's promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.



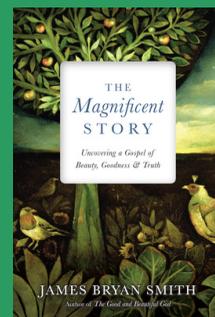


# **The Magnificent Story** **Small Group Gatherings**

Stories help us make sense of our world. They also help shape who we are. But some stories are better than others. Pastor Tom and author Jim Smith will be preaching messages based on the book, *The Magnificent Story*, this fall. The congregation is invited to journey through this story by forming or joining a small group. Groups will begin the week of September 5 and meet approximately one hour a week, for six weeks. Facilitators choose the time, place, and people. We can help fill groups, too. Discussion guides are provided.

Willing to form a group?  
[asburytulsa.org/facilitators](http://asburytulsa.org/facilitators)

Wanting to join a group?  
[asburytulsa.org/joingroup](http://asburytulsa.org/joingroup)



**Small group facilitators are invited to a special luncheon with author, Jim Smith, on September 5.**

For books and information visit the CLC tables on Sunday mornings, or contact Pastor James: [jlambert@asburytulsa.org](mailto:jlambert@asburytulsa.org).



ASBURY  
Kids



ASBURY  
STUDENTS



Feed yourself physically and spiritually

# WEDNESDAYS

[asburytulsa.org/wednesdays](http://asburytulsa.org/wednesdays)

at ASBURY

**Starting September 1.** Becoming a strong disciple means learning Scripture and applying it to your everyday life. We will be offering a wide variety of learning opportunities for the whole family. Or do you sing? Play an instrument? Experiencing or joining one of Asbury's choir, orchestra or music teams is something you don't want to miss.



**If you ordered a nametag,** you can pick them up at the main office. Thank you for helping Asbury "Grow Together."



ASBURY  
STUDENTS

# SMALL GROUPS

Beginning September 19 | 4-5:30 pm

# August Teaching Series:

# THE **TRUTH** ABOUT SEX



Rumors



Discredit



Lies



Incite



Distortion



Chaos



Confusion

**TONIGHT! 6 -7:30 PM | Sanctuary**

## August 15 - "Off Limits" - The Truth About Homosexuality

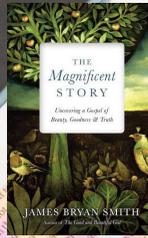
### Topics for discussion:

- We aren't just talking about an "issue" tonight, but about people created in the image of God, some of whom identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer.
- Christians have often failed to love such persons.
- Nonetheless our main question is whether or not God blesses sexual relationships between persons of the same sex. Are such relationships open or off-limits to God's people?
- We are ALL created good AND we are ALL sinners who have fallen short of God's glory.
- Times change, culture changes, opinions change, everything changes, but God does not change.
- There are times (many times) when the message of Scripture contradicts culture and popular opinion. In those times, we've got to go with Scripture.
- There are times (many times) when the message of Scripture contradicts our own deeply felt desires. In those times, we've got to trust the Lord who made us.
- There are 6 different chapters of Scripture which explicitly speak of homosexual relationships. Those are: Genesis 19, Leviticus 18, Leviticus 20, Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6, 1 Timothy 1.
- Homosexual relationships are not new. They have always been part of human culture and experience.
- Remember: "There is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

# Beginning September 1 FALL (MID-WEEK) DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

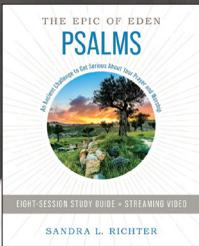


**ROMANS  
PART 2  
CHAPTERS 6-8**



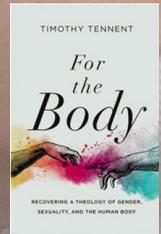
Confident  
**FAITH**

Fun Ways to  
Tell People  
About Jesus



**Serie**  
Juan Wesley

UNLOCKING  
the Scriptures



Register at [myasburytulsa.org](https://myasburytulsa.org)

View all options at [asburytulsa.org/events/list](https://asburytulsa.org/events/list)

# HOMECOMING

AUGUST 29 | 9 AM - 12:30 PM

Opportunities to view Better Together in fruition – including the Asbury Students Center and the North Portico

Social and snacks with Discipleship Communities – Meet community members and learn which one is the best Sunday morning fit for you!

**Digital Scavenger Hunt** across the entire Asbury campus (with prizes!)

**Pastor Meet & Greet** – Get-to-know Asbury's newest pastors.

# GUEST SERVICES

Would you love to welcome guests to Asbury? We need 140 volunteers each Sunday.

Please stop by the Main Foyer's Guest Services Table or contact Lauren Brown at [lbrown@asburytulsa.org](mailto:lbrown@asburytulsa.org).



# EVENTS

Next Steps

## NEWCOMER MEAL

with Senior Pastor Tom Harrison

**August 22 | 12:15 pm**

*An introduction to our mission, sacraments and membership vows.*

Register at [asburytulsa.org/newcomermeal](http://asburytulsa.org/newcomermeal)

