



September 2021 Sermon Series: "It's Complicated"

When it comes to living in faithfulness to God, turns out we are all giraffes on roller skates. Even the best of us: Abraham, Moses, Mary, John the Baptist. All are complex people living in a complex world who find themselves one day gliding and the next stumbling. They sincerely followed God, that's what made them the faithful, effective leaders they were. Yet at times they are overtaken by fear, anger, lust, or mistrust and they sin. And sin always has consequences. Faithfulness: it's complicated.

Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the narratives in 1 Samuel. The nation requires a humble leader who will follow the LORD faithfully and get Israel out of the cycles of self-sabotage in which she is caught. Will one be found? Will a humble, confident king emerge from the rubble and rescue God's people so they can fulfill their calling to bless all the nations of the world? Is there a humble, confident king that we can follow to empower us to fulfill our calling in the world? Someone who can help giraffes roller skate? Let's find out.



April 2021: "Rise & Share"

Background: Luke follows up his Gospel account after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus with this book. In it he describes the ripple effects of such a monumental event in the lives of people who experience this new life. Luke uses the word "rise" several times, especially at the beginning of the book. It's as if he wants to highlight the importance of the resurrection in his choice of verbs at times.

Description: Spring and summer bring signs of new life. Following the winter cold, new life arises with the warmth of these seasons. Many people have experienced this past 12 months as a prolonged winter and wonder what kind of new life will arise. As God's people, this is something we need not wonder, for we know the character of our God! We may not know the exact form it will take but we know that the compassion, grace, slowness to anger, loyal love and faithfulness which raised Jesus from the dead, raises his people to new life and sends us to actively share that new life with the world. For the next several months we are going to explore this "rise and act" theme in the book of Acts and ask God to show us how are to join with him as he arises new life in us and through us, right here in Longview, Texas.