

September 13, 2026: Rally Day - Together, Rooted, Growing, and Strong
Deuteronomy 6:1–9; 2 Timothy 3:14–17.

“These commandments that I give you today... Impress them on your children.” Deut. 6:6-7

“...the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation” 2 Timothy 3:15

Today is Rally Day—a joyful occasion marked by welcome and new beginnings. We celebrate our children, youth, adults, teachers, and the gift of Christian education. Today, we recommit ourselves to the sacred work of learning God’s Word together.

Rally Day is not just the start of Sunday School or Adult Bible Study. It is the start of a journey of learning. A journey of growing. A journey of becoming rooted in Scripture.

This morning’s sermon emphasizes the importance of Christian education, teaching, and learning, as well as long-term discipleship in our faith journey.

First, God commands us to teach His Word as stated in Deuteronomy 6:4–9. In this chapter, God presents the Shema to Israel: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” He instructs us to “teach these words diligently to your children,” to “talk about them at home and on the road,” to “bind them on your hands,” and to “write them on your doorposts.” In other words, we should make Scripture the rhythm of our daily lives.

Christian education is not optional. God does not say, “Teach the Word if you have time.” Instead, He says, “Teach it diligently. Teach it intentionally. Teach it repeatedly. Teach it joyfully.” Christian education is not a secondary ministry; it is a central calling. The Word shapes our identity. As Israel was about to enter a new land filled with new challenges, temptations, and pressures, God understood the importance of being rooted in Scripture to remain faithful. Similarly, we all need this foundation to be grounded in the Word.

Second, Jesus promises to be present when we gather, as stated in Matthew 18:20: “Where two or three gather in my name, I am there with them.” This truth lies at the heart of Christian education. Bible study is not merely about learning; it is about encountering Christ. When we gather around Scripture, we experience Christ as He teaches, guides, corrects, comforts, and strengthens us. Bible study is not just a classroom; it is a place to meet Jesus.

Small groups are important. Jesus does not require a large crowd; He says that two or three are enough. This means that even a small gathering can be significant—whether it’s two children in a Sunday School class, three youth in a Bible study, four adults in a small group, or a family reading Scripture at home. Every gathering becomes holy ground.

Third, Scripture makes us wise and equipped (2 Timothy 3:14–17). Paul instructs Timothy: “Continue in what you have learned.” He emphasizes that “All Scripture is God-breathed” and that it “equips you for every good work.”

The Bible shapes character. Scripture teaches us how to love, forgive, serve, pray, hope, and live faithfully.

The Bible equips for life. Paul states that Scripture trains us in teaching, correction, and righteousness. In other words, the Bible prepares us for everything God calls us to do.

Rally Day is a call to renew our commitment. Today is not just a celebration; it is a recommitment:

Today we recommit ourselves to Christian education. We recommit ourselves to learning. We recommit ourselves to discipleship. We recommit ourselves to growing in the knowledge of God.

Let us envision our church again where:

- Children eagerly run to Sunday School, filled with joy—remember your Sunday school years!
- Adults approach Bible study with a deep hunger, always seeking to engage on Tuesday nights!
- Families read Scripture together at home—cherish those days you remember!
- Teachers serve with passion, and the presence of Christ is felt in every classroom.

Today, we begin again. We open our Bibles. We open our hearts. We open our classrooms. We open our lives to God's teaching. Please pay attention to the sermons, take sermon notes home, and reread and meditate on them.

This year, may we be:

- **Filled** with God's truth
- **Walking** worthy of the Lord
- **Bearing** fruit in every good work
- **Growing** in the knowledge of God.
- **Becoming a church rooted in Scripture, growing in faith, and strong in Christ.**

This is our Rally Day prayer. This is our Rally Day purpose. This is our Rally Day commitment.

Let us pray: Lord, bless this new year of Christian Education. Bless our children, youth, adults, and teachers. Root us in Your Word, grow us in Your knowledge, and strengthen our walk in Your love. Fill us with Your truth and teach us Your will. Multiply our fruit. May our classrooms be places where Christ is present, and hearts are transformed. Let this be a year of learning, growth, and deeper discipleship. In Jesus' name, Amen.