

“We train disciplemakers...”



Ripple?
— p. 2



God's Design
— p. 3

Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Podcast

*Making Disciples
Naturally Podcast*

Street Smarts
— page 2

Are we aiming for the splash? Or the ripple?
— page 2

The Depths of God's Design for You
*See the article
by Richard Spann
on page 3*

*Mark your calendars for our
Spring Men's Retreat
April 12-13, 2024 at
Crosswind Conference
Center. Special guest speaker
is James Carter, Kansas City
Ministry Director for
The Navigators ©*

Men's Retreat Speaker announced

James Carter, Kansas City Navigator City Director, will be our guest speaker for the spring men's retreat, April 12-13, 2024 at Hesston's Crosswind Conference Center.

Prior to his appointment as City Director in Kansas City, James served the Navigators at Fort Riley, Kansas. He has 20 years of experience making, maturing, and multiplying disciple-makers and leaders who live knowing the love and freedom found in the good news of Jesus. James has served in the U.S. Army and the National Guard for over 23 years as an Infantryman. He earned his Undergraduate Degree in Psychology from the University of Central Missouri and His Master of Divinity (M.Div.) with an emphasis in leadership from Liberty University. He is married to Monica and they have two children.



James is an engaging speaker and will effectively communicate to both younger and older folks as he brings what the Lord has laid on his heart. Be praying about men to invite to join you for this great retreat. Be watching for registration material soon!

(Scripture quoted by permission. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NET Bible. "The Scriptures quoted are from the NET Bible® <http://netbible.com> copyright ©1996, 2019 used with permission from Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. All rights reserved")

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith excellence, to excellence, knowledge; to knowledge, self-control; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, brotherly affection; to brotherly affection, unselfish love. For if these things are really yours and are continually increasing, they will keep you from becoming ineffective and unproductive in your pursuit of knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more intimately.”

—2 Peter 1:5-8 (NET Bible)

Street Smarts

Would you like to be able to intelligently and with humility interact with people who have honest questions about the faith? Or would you like to improve your own understanding of some “reasons why you believe”? This may be the book you are looking for.

Greg Koukl is an apologist and has a ministry called “Stand to Reason” (STR.org). He grew up as a non-Christian and came to faith in his 30’s. His keen wit and insight brings a fresh perspective on how to relate to folks who have questions about life, God and reality.

Note the sub-title: “using questions to answer Christianity’s toughest challenges.” He goes through sample dialogues using questions that get to the heart of the issue, yet always with a respectful and humble approach. This book is written somewhat as a sequel to Greg’s previous book *Tactics*, which is also highly

GREGORY KOUKL

Author of *Tactics*

STREET SMARTS

USING **QUESTIONS** TO
ANSWER CHRISTIANITY'S
TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

recommended as a template for asking good, thoughtful and respectful questions.

In *Street Smarts*, Greg covers issues such as relativism, the trustworthiness of Scripture, the claims of the Gospel, abortion, marriage, sex and gender, etc. He gives not only an excellent foundation for how to think about these issues from a Christian and Biblical standpoint, but also how to meaningfully engage others by asking great questions. After all, that’s how Jesus interacted with people!

This would be a great book to go through with your high school or older child or grandchild, as well as with someone that you are investing in. It would help them get comfortable addressing hard topics in a Christlike way.

This is available either through STR.org or Amazon, etc.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Aim for the ripple, not the splash.”

— Tom Yeakley

— Vol. 3 pages 55-57

It was a featured article in the church’s newsletter. For the past year there had been a large number of men attending their presentations, more so than in any other men’s ministry in that state. The men who attended were always eager to come hear the next scheduled speaker. ... When I visited with one of the leaders of that ministry a few years later, I asked him about the current state of that outreach. He said, “They are not meeting anymore. It all fell apart after a few years. To my knowledge, I don’t think anyone of that group is involved anymore in a ministry.” I wondered the following to myself: were they focused on the program rather than the people? ... Could they have been more occupied with the splash than with the ripple?

Fortunately, there are endeavors that are planned on a large scale which lead to a significant ripple. I recently heard of one planned by international personalities, entrepreneurs and others who could provide significant financial support.... As I compared our ministry with their outreach, I thought that we would never be able to offer anything on a scale similar to theirs. What the Lord had called us to do seemed so common and mundane compared to the enterprise defined in the brochure. Later that evening as I was considering this further, I was reminded of Tom Yeakley’s words earlier that day, “Aim for the ripple, not the splash.”

Fifty years ago, a ripple began with five couples here in Wichita. They met weekly, shared their lives, studied the scriptures regularly and prayed together. They were encouraged to share the gospel and their lives with others and within the next ten years four teams of disciple-makers had been formed. Some were transferred to other locations ... and began to make an impact in the new locations. Others were added to the growth of the ministry and thousands of lives have been impacted for Christ since that time.

Not many of us are going to make that big of a splash, but we can all make a ripple. The Holy Spirit has given each of us the tools by which He creates ripples: our lives, the word of God, and prayer. As we invest in other lives using these tools, ripples will be created that will reach into eternity. May God so work in your life that you aim for the ripple, not just the splash. In Christ, Richard Spann

The Depths of God's Designs for Us by Richard Spann



I am sometimes asked if I have a favorite verse in the Bible. Actually, there are too many to recount. I need them all! Perhaps the one that most completely describes God's plan for us is in II Corinthians 5:21. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (KJV) Another question that seems to arise is "Do you have a favorite chapter in the Bible?" Many look at I Corinthians 13, or perhaps the 23rd Psalm. Although I cannot name a favorite chapter, I do have a favorite paragraph, seven verses which continue to amaze and astound my understanding of the vastness and completeness of God's care and love for us from the beginning of our lives to the end, including our preparation

for eternity. They are found in the first seven verses of Isaiah chapter 43.

"But now, this is what the LORD says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel. (verse 1) YHWH opens this chapter by declaring His name, the LORD, the One who becomes all we need Him to be. He wants us to know that the following statements are His words! When He created us, we were all like Jacob, one who wants to control his own life, make his own decisions, and go his own way. The LORD needed to put him through a process (formed) in order to change him into Israel (Ruled by God). This is His pattern with each of us! God is faithful to individually form us into those who are ruled by Him.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. (verse 2) This is the first of two fear nots in this paragraph. We need not fear because the LORD knows us by name. He has summoned us and redeemed us. We belong to Him because we are His design, His creation, His purchased redemption and His possession. Our position could not be more secure than this!

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. (verse 3) This verse is a marvelous statement regarding the LORD's protection. His presence is always with us. Each event of our lives is under His personal supervision. Whether these issues are financial, a physical illness, loss of loved ones, or other challenging circumstances, the LORD assures us of His personal presence and protection.

For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. (verse 3) Here He reminds us again of His all sufficient and mighty Name, sufficient to provide and preserve us in every situation that life may bring.

(continued on next page)

"The greatest amount of wasted time is the time not getting started."

— Dawson Trotman, Founder of The Navigators ©, found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/24943-Dawson_Trotman

Depths (continued)

Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. (verse 4) In Deuteronomy 32:9 the LORD declares that “The LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance.” In Isaiah 43, the LORD declares that we are to become participants with Him in His inheritance, which is the lives of people. People are what the LORD values, and He desires that we become partners with Him in claiming His possession. He desires us to work alongside Him with His inheritance! “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” II Corinthians 5:20.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” (Verses 5-7) The fitting climax to this marvelous paragraph of creation, formation, personal knowledge, pardon, protection and



partnership is His promise to those who participate in His grace. He will bring with Him those with whom we have invested our lives. How many will there be before His throne that He will reveal to us? Isaiah 60:22 says that “The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD, in its time I will do this swiftly.” In regard to each one of these, the LORD states that they were created, formed and made. These three words seem similar in our language, but in Hebrew they are unique and each one describes a different part of God’s work in their lives. Created (bara in Hebrew), is the word used in Genesis 1:1 and Genesis

1:27. Here it describes a unique personality with potential and possibilities. The word formed indicates a process, while the word made refers to the final product of His work. The LORD sums up His purpose by declaring that it is being done for His Glory! This product is referred to in Ephesians 4:13. “Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

The above paragraph may seem like the total picture of the LORD’s work in our lives. It is, in fact, just the beginning. It is but the preparation for the work of the ages to come. “Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:21 (KJV) His work in us and through us will continue as we join with all tribes and tongues around His throne praising and serving Him forever!

In Christ, Richard Spann

"We ought to be living as if Jesus died yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back this afternoon."

— Adrian Rogers, Pastor, Speaker, quote found at [https://](https://www.azquotes.com/author/18813-Adrian_Rogers)

www.azquotes.com/author/18813-Adrian_Rogers