

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 4, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:44

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons
Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havar
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Mark Weiss
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Philippians 3:1–14
Sermon Neil Mclver

Quick takes

- Seventh day of Unleavened Bread—Wednesday, April 8
 - 1:00—Interactive study Mark Weiss
 - 2:00—Presentation study Dave Havar
 - 3:00—Church service Sermon by Stan West
- Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
- No Wednesday-night Bible study—No Bible study on April 8.
- Edifying the Body—“Wave Sheaf Offering” by Dave Havar.
- Among Friends—This week’s article is “Responding to Grace” by Dave Havar.
- Eye on the World—None this week.

Prayer updates

Mark and **Nina Searer** gave the following report about **Meghan**: “Meghan has one more week of IV antibiotics, and then she is scheduled to be released to a physical-therapy center for a week to 10 days. The doctor has identified a small clot in an arterial vein being carefully watched. Prayers are still appreciated.”

Timberly Dunnam still hasn’t heard from the hospital for the schedule of her biopsy involving a cyst. (And the recent weather is giving her difficulty.)

New prayer requests

Clint Ison requests prayers for his mother, **Cecile Ison**. (They attend a congregation in Decaturville, Tenn.) Mrs. Ison fell on Thursday morning. Family members initially thought she was okay, but she was taken to the ER later that evening and admitted. The doctor found that Mrs. Ison has two broken ribs and a damaged shoulder. Mrs. Ison (who turned 88 on Friday) learned that rehab is in the offing.

Scriptures about Christ's resurrection

Peter (left column) and Paul (right column) discussed the resurrection of Christ.

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| ■ Acts 2:22-36 | ■ Acts 13:16-41 |
| ■ Acts 3:12-18 | ■ Acts 17:2-3 |
| ■ Acts 3:26 | ■ Acts 17:18 |
| ■ Acts 4:2 | ■ Acts 28:23-31 |
| ■ Acts 4:10 | ■ Romans 4:24-25 |
| ■ Acts 4:33 | ■ Romans 6:3-6 |
| ■ Acts 5:30-31 | ■ Romans 8:11 |
| ■ Acts 10:34-43 | ■ Romans 8:34 |
| ■ 1 Peter 1:3-5 | ■ 1 Corinthians 6:14 |
| ■ 1 Peter 1:18-21 | ■ 1 Corinthians 15:12-23 |
| ■ 1 Peter 3:21-22 | ■ 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 |
| | ■ 2 Corinthians 4:14 |
| | ■ Ephesians 1:20-23 |
| | ■ Philippians 3:10 |
| | ■ Colossians 2:12 |
| | ■ Colossians 3:1-10 |

“Wave Sheaf Offering”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of April 4, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—The agricultural cycle of ancient Israel revolved around two harvests—one in the spring and the other in the autumn. Before any grain could be harvested in the spring, an unusual ceremony took place to inaugurate the spring harvest season.

Ancient Israel was not allowed to eat any of the new grain harvest until the commanded “wave-sheaf offering” was offered during the Days of Unleavened Bread. It was to be offered in conjunction with the daily morning

sacrifices for that day and a special unblemished sacrificial lamb “of the first year.” The timing of the regular morning sacrifice was at 9:00—the third hour of the day.

This ceremony was the waving of the first sheaf of grain to be accepted by God. (Instructions for this ceremony are mentioned in Leviticus 23:10-14.) No one was to eat any of the grain of the harvest until the first sheaf of the harvest was brought to the priest—who in turn waved it before God.

■ Leviticus 23:10—“You shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.”

■ Leviticus 23:11—“He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf. On the day after the Sabbath [during the Days of Unleavened Bread], the priest shall wave it.”

■ Leviticus 23:15-16—The Day of Pentecost was counted from this day.

Jesus Christ

■ Leviticus 23:10-11—Firstfruit to be accepted on your behalf

■ Romans 8:29—Firstborn among many brethren

■ 1 Corinthians 15:20—Firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep

Followers of Christ

■ Hebrews 12:23—Church of the first-born

■ James 1:18—Firstfruit of His creatures

■ Revelation 14:4—Firstfruits to God and to the Lamb

“Responding to Grace”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of April 4, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our church service on Thursday (celebrating the first day of Unleavened Bread), I gave a presentation titled “Responding to Grace.” Following are the scriptures that I mentioned.

Food instruction for the week

Here are just a few of the scriptures that talk about unleavened bread and leavened food.

■ Exodus 12:15—“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day, you shall remove leaven [leavened food] from your homes.”

■ Exodus 12:18—“In the first month on the 14th day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the 21st day of the month at evening.”

■ Exodus 12:19—“For seven days no leaven [food] shall be found in your houses.”

■ Exodus 12:20—“You shall eat nothing leavened. In all your dwellings, you shall eat unleavened bread.

■ Deuteronomy 16:3—“You shall eat no leavened bread with it [the Passover sacrifice]. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.”

Sanctuary Passover

While the vast majority of people realize that the Passover observance became a sanctuary event, it is always fun to watch when friends realize that truth.

■ Deuteronomy 16:5-6—“You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.”

■ 2 Chronicles 30:24—Check out how many animals were sacrificed at King Hezekiah’s sanctuary Passover.

■ 2 Chronicles 35:7-9—Check out how many animals were sacrificed at King Josiah’s sanctuary Passover.

Here is a question that you might want to consider: How many animals were sacrificed at the sanctuary Passover where the Son of God died? Consider checking what the historian Josephus reported. The high number may surprise you.

Reminder of two leaven lessons

The first lesson was “leaving in haste.”

■ Exodus 12:11—“You shall eat with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste.”

The second lesson was putting out sin.

■ Romans 6:1-2—Since we are saved by grace, should we sin? Absolutely not.

■ 1 Corinthians 5:7—Purge out the old leav-

en, since you are truly unleavened. Christ is our Passover.

■ John 10:28—No one can snatch you out of the Son's hand.

■ John 10:29—No one can snatch you out of the Father's hand.

Because we are saved

■ Exodus 20:1-17—God spoke these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Then, He gave them the Ten Commandments.

(For the record—I view the Jewish Talmud and the 613 commandments differently from the way I view the Bible and the Ten Commandments.)

Only five commandments?

■ Matthew 19:16—A man asked: "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

■ Matthew 19:17—Christ replied: "If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

■ Matthew 19:18—The man asked: "Which ones?"

■ Matthew 19:18-19—Christ mentioned only five of the Ten Commandments and then summarized them with the phrase "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

(In Romans 13:9-10, the apostle Paul also summarized only five of the Ten Commandments with the phrase "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But his chosen five were not exactly the same five.)

Question: Did Christ teach that we should keep only five Commandments?

My answer: Matthew 22:36-40 gives a larger list.

■ Matthew 22:37—We should love God (with our heart, soul and mind).

■ Matthew 22:39—We should also love our neighbor as we love ourself.

■ Matthew 22:40—He said: "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Personal instruction

When we look back at Matthew 19, we see that there was personal, specific instruction for the man who asked Christ about obedience.

■ Matthew 19:20—The man said: "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

■ Matthew 19:21—That man needed to give to the poor.

Do you realize that all of us need personalized instruction (beyond the basic teachings of the Ten Commandments)?

More than rituals

■ Mark 7:1-5—Some Pharisees and scribes saw Christ's disciples violating their traditions (their rituals) and complained to Christ about their behavior.

■ Mark 7:6-7—Christ paraphrased Isaiah 29:13 to tell them that their traditions (rituals) were worshiping in vain and were teaching doctrines (rituals) that were commandments of men.

■ Mark 7:8—Christ said: "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the traditions [rituals] of men."

■ Mark 7:9—Christ said: "You reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition [rituals]."

■ Mark 7:10-13—Christ specifically mentioned how people violated the Fifth Commandment by giving financial gifts to God instead of providing for their parents.

Christ saw their sins

The lesson of John 8:1-11 is a powerful lesson all year long—but can certainly be helpful during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

■ John 8:2—The Son of God was teaching in the temple.

■ John 8:6—The scribes and Pharisees wanted to test Him and accuse Him.

■ John 8:3-4—The scribes and Pharisees brought an adulterous woman to Him.

■ John 8:5—They quoted Moses and wanted Him to contradict Moses.

■ John 8:6-9—But He stooped down and wrote on the ground. (Although the Bible does not mention what He was writing, He was obviously mentioning some of the accusers' sins.)

There is certainly a time to help people to overcome their sins (Galatians 6:1). But we should primarily focus upon our own repentance.