



Illuminating
REALITY

Welcome To Long Beach Alliance Church!

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024



VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

June 24-28, 2024

Registration open for students and volunteers

Space is limited - Register today!

Go to lbac.org and click on the VBS 2024

Registration link on the home page

Questions??? Meghan Brearley 562.708.9261

or meghan@lbac.org

We still need volunteers!

SAVE THE DATE - VBS Leaders Meeting

Saturday, May 18 10AM

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Beginning Balance September 1, 2023: \$30,994.65

| | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Received</u> | <u>Budget %</u> |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| March 2024: | \$73,498.15 | \$76,827.74 | 104.5% |
| Year-to-Date: | \$455,688.53 | \$422,548.42 | 92.7% |
| Disbursed YTD: | \$419,339.62 | GF Balance: \$34,203.45 | |

Financial Gifts can be placed in the locked box in the Sanctuary lobby or given to an usher.

You can also use any of the options viewable online at <https://lbac.org/give>.

Authentication

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 21, 2024 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD,
WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!**

◀JOHN 1:29▶

- 1) Who Are You? (Who, who? Who, who?)**
 - a) A group of priests, Levites, and Pharisees (John 1:19-24) come to John the Baptist to inquire about his identity.**
 - b) Amusingly, John the Baptist is a Levite and from the priestly line (note Luke 1:5-25). John's ministry was popular among the common people and was centered near the Jordan River where he would baptize people (Matthew 3:5-6), which probably warranted inquiry by a delegation from Jerusalem.**
 - c) The religious leaders ask John three questions:**
 - i) Are you the 'Anointed One' (Messiah)?**
 - ii) Are you Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6)?**
 - iii) Are you 'The Prophet' (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)?**
 - d) After getting nowhere with their questions, the delegation finally ask John who he thinks he is (John 1:22-23). John's answer (from Isaiah 40:3-5) is both attached to prophecy, and begins to unfold insight to John's divine calling and his purpose of turning the disobedient to the Lord (Luke 1:17).**

- e) The Pharisees, who tended to have expertise in the finer points of the Law (and many extra legalistic rules designed to protect the sanctity of the Law) press John the Baptist for the reason why he is baptizing people (John 1:24-28).**
- f) Without any resolution to their questions, the inquiries about John the Baptist by the religious leaders fade into the background, and Jesus' identity begins to take center stage.**

2) Authenticated Humility

- a) "The next day..." (John 1:29, a common literary device John uses for moving us to our 'next story'), Jesus comes within sight of John the Baptist and his (JTB's) followers. This triggers a series of authenticating statements about Jesus Christ, and reveals John the Baptist's genuine humility.**
- b) First, Jesus is called "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). This vivid imagery of the sacrificial Passover lamb (from numerous Old Testament passages, but especially Genesis 22, Leviticus 14, 16, & Numbers 6) was a clear Messianic assertion (Isaiah 53:7).**
- c) Secondly, alluding to the pre-existence of "the Christ" (John 1:15 & 30), John the Baptist affirms that Jesus was the one for which he came "to make straight the way of the Lord" (John 1:23/Isaiah 40:3-5), and simultaneously revealing the humility of John the Baptist (John 1:30-31, cf. 3:30).**
- d) Finally, speaking of Jesus' baptism (to be detailed more thoroughly in John 3) John the Baptist gives his eyewitness testimony of the Spirit's anointing from God the Father which confirmed Jesus as the "Son of God" (John 1:33-34). This affirmed God's prophesied redemption plan for mankind by the 'Son of God' from the OT (Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14)!**

JEWISH SECTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

PHARISEES

| DATES OF EXISTENCE | NAME | ORIGIN | SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Existed under Jonathan (160–143 B.C.) Declined in power under John Hyrcanus (134–104 B.C.) Began resurgence under Salome Alexandra (76 B.C.)</p> | <p>Pharisees = “the Separated Ones” with three possible meanings: (1) to their separating themselves <i>from</i> people (2) to their separating themselves <i>to</i> the study of the law (“dividing” or “separating” the truth) (3) to their separating themselves <i>from</i> pagan practices</p> | <p>Probably spiritual descendants of the Hasidim (religious freedom fighters of the time of Judas Maccabeus)</p> | <p>Most numerous of the Jewish parties (or sects) Probably descendants of the Hasidim—scribes and lawyers Members of the middle class—mostly businessmen (merchants and tradesmen)</p> |
| BELIEFS | SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES | ACTIVITIES | |
| <p>Monotheistic Viewed entirety of the Old Testament (Torah, Prophets, and Writings) as authoritative Believed that the study of the law was true worship Accepted both the written and oral law More liberal in interpreting the law than were the Sadducees Quite concerned with the proper keeping of the Sabbath, tithing, and purification rituals Believed in life after death and the resurrection of the body (with divine retribution and reward) Believed in the reality of demons and angels Revered humanity and human equality Missionary-minded regarding the conversion of Gentiles Believed that individuals were responsible for how they lived</p> | <p>Matt 3:7-10; 5:20; 9:14; 16:1,6-12; 22:15-22,34-46; 23:2-36 Mark 3:6; 7:3-5; 8:15; 12:13-17 Luke 6:7; 7:36-39; 11:37-44; 18:9-14 John 3:1; 9:13-16; 11:46-47; 12:19 Acts 23:6-10 Phil 3:4b-6</p> | <p>Developers of oral tradition Taught that the way to God was through obedience to the law Changed Judaism from a religion of sacrifice to a religion of law Progressive thinkers regarding the adaptation of the law to situations Opposed Jesus because He would not accept the teachings of the oral law as binding Established and controlled synagogues Exercised great control over general population Served as religious authorities for most Jews Took several ceremonies from the temple to the home Emphasized ethical as opposed to theological action Legalistic and socially exclusive (shunned non-Pharisees as unclean) Tended to have a self-sufficient and haughty attitude</p> | |

SADDUCEES

| DATES OF EXISTENCE | NAME | ORIGIN | SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Probably began about 200 B.C. Demise occurred in A.D. 70 (with the destruction of the temple)</p> | <p>Sadducees = Three possible translations: (1) "the Righteous Ones"—based on the Hebrew consonants for the word <i>righteous</i> (2) "ones who sympathize with Zadok," or "Zadokites"—based on their possible link to Zadok the high priest (3) "syndics," "judges," or "fiscal controllers"—based on the Greek word <i>syndikoi</i></p> | <p>Unknown origin Claimed to be descendants of Zadok—high priest under David (see 2 Sam 8:17; 15:24) and Solomon (see 1 Kgs 1:34-35; 1 Chr 12:28) Had a possible link to Aaron Were probably formed into a group about 200 B.C. as the high priest's party</p> | <p>Aristocracy—the rich descendants of the high-priestly line (however, not all priest were Sadducees) Possible descendants of the Hasmonean priesthood Probably not as refined as their economic position in life would suggest</p> |
| BELIEFS | SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES | ACTIVITIES | |
| <p>Accepted only the Torah (Genesis through Deuteronomy—the written law of Moses) as authoritative Practiced literal interpretation of the law Rigidly conservative toward the law Stressed strict observance of the law Observed past beliefs and tradition Opposed oral law as obligatory or binding Believed in the absolute freedom of human will—that people could do as they wished without attention from God Denied divine providence Denied the concept of life after death and the resurrection of the body Denied the concept of reward and punishment after death Denied the existence of angels and demons Materialistic</p> | <p>2 Sam 8:17; 15:24 1 Kgs 1:34 1 Chr 12:26-28 Ezek 40:45-46; 43:19; 44:15-16 Matt 3:7-10; 16:1,6-12; 22:23-34 Mark 12:18-27 Luke 20:27-40 John 11:47 Acts 4:1-2; 5:17-18; 23:6-10</p> | <p>In charge of the temple and its services Politically active Exercised great political control through the Sanhedrin, of which many were members Supported the ruling power and the status quo Leaned toward Hellenism (the spreading of Greek influence)—and were thus despised by the Jewish populace Opposed both the Pharisees and Jesus because these lived by a larger canon (The Pharisees and Jesus both considered more than only Genesis through Deuteronomy as authoritative.) Opposed Jesus specifically for fear their wealth/position would be threatened if they supported Him</p> | |

ZEALOTS

| DATES OF EXISTENCE | NAME | ORIGIN | SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Three possibilities for their beginning</p> <p>(1) during the reign of Herod the Great (about 37 B.C.)</p> <p>(2) during the revolt against Rome (A.D. 6)</p> <p>(3) traced back to the Hasidim or the Maccabees (about 168 B.C.)</p> <p>Their certain demise occurred around A.D. 70–73 with Rome's conquering of Jerusalem.</p> | <p>Refers to their religious zeal</p> <p>Josephus used the term in referring to those involved in the Jewish revolt against Rome in A.D. 6—led by Judas of Galilee</p> | <p>(According to Josephus) The Zealots began with Judas (the Galilean), son of Ezekias, who led a revolt in A.D. 6 because of a census done for tax purposes</p> | <p>The extreme wing of the Pharisees</p> |

| BELIEFS | SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES | ACTIVITIES |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Similar to the Pharisees with this exception: believed strongly that only God had the right to rule over the Jews. Patriotism and religion became inseparable.</p> <p>Believed that total obedience (supported by drastic physical measures) must be apparent before God would bring in the Messianic Age</p> <p>Were fanatical in their Jewish faith and in their devotion to the law—to the point of martyrdom</p> | <p>Matt 10:4 Mark 3:18 Luke 6:15 Acts 1:13</p> | <p>Extremely opposed to Roman rule over Palestine</p> <p>Extremely opposed to peace with Rome</p> <p>Refused to pay taxes</p> <p>Demonstrated against the use of the Greek language in Palestine</p> <p>Engaged in terrorism against Rome and others with whom they disagreed politically</p> <p>(Sicarii [or Assassins] were an extremist Zealot group who carried out acts of terrorism against Rome.)</p> |

HERODIANS

| DATES OF EXISTENCE | NAME | ORIGIN | SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>Existed during the time of the Herodian dynasty (which began with Herod the Great in 37 B.C.)</p> <p>Uncertain demise</p> | <p>Based on their support of the Herodian rulers (Herod the Great or his dynasty)</p> | <p>Exact origin uncertain</p> | <p>Wealthy, politically influential Jews who supported Herod Antipas (or any descendant of Herod the Great) as ruler over Palestine (Judea and Samaria were under Roman governors at this time.)</p> |

HERODIANS (CONT.)

| BELIEFS | SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES | ACTIVITIES |
|--|--|---|
| Not a religious group—but a political one Membership probably was comprised of representatives of varied theological perspectives | Matt 22:5-22 Mark 3:6; 8:15; 12:13-17 | Supported Herod and the Herodian dynasty Accepted Hellenization Accepted foreign rule |

ESSENES

| DATES OF EXISTENCE | NAME | ORIGIN | SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY |
|--|----------------|---|---|
| Probably began during Maccabean times (about 168 B.C.)—around the same time as the Pharisees and the Sadducees began to form Uncertain demise—possibly in A.D. 68–70 with the collapse of Jerusalem | Unknown origin | Possibly developed as a reaction to the corrupt Sadducean priesthood Have been identified with various groups: Hasidim, Zealots, Greek influence, or Iranian influence | Scattered throughout the villages of Judea (possibly including the community of Qumran) (According to Philo and Josephus) About 4,000 in Palestinian Syria |

| BELIEFS | SELECTED BIBLICAL REFERENCES | ACTIVITIES |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Very strict ascetics Monastic: most took vow of celibacy (adopting male children in order to perpetuate the group), but some did marry (for the purpose of procreation) Rigidly adherent to the law (including a strict rendering of the ethical teachings) Considered other literature as authoritative (in addition to the Hebrew Scripture) Believed and lived as pacifists Rejected temple worship and temple offerings as corrupted Believed in the immortality of the soul with no bodily resurrection Apocalyptically oriented | None | Devoted to the copying and studying of the manuscripts of the law Lived in a community sense with communal property Required a long probationary period and ritual baptisms of those wishing to join Were highly virtuous and righteous Were extremely self-disciplined Were diligent manual laborers Gave great importance to daily worship Upheld rigid Sabbath laws Maintained a non-Levitical priesthood Rejected worldly pleasures as evil Rejected matrimony—but did not forbid others to marry |

FOR FREEDOM WORKSHOP

APRIL 27, 2024 10AM - 2PM

LBAC Sanctuary (Lunch Provided)

*Any questions? Contact Sam (925-285-1295) or
Debra Eberhart (562-553-2390)*



**TICKETS
\$20**

**RESERVE
YOUR
SEAT
TODAY!**

**Last chance to sign up!
Give to a friend who may benefit from this!**

**EQUIPPING THE CHURCH TO PROVIDE PATHWAYS FOR HEALING
TO THOSE DEVASTATED BY THE EFFECTS OF UNWANTED SEXUAL
BEHAVIORS AND BETRAYAL TRAUMA**

QUESTIONING EVANGELISM

(Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did)

Discussion Leader: Elder Scott Slade

10 week discussion using Scripture and the book*

"Questioning Evangelism" by Randy Newman (book not required)

We are all on a mission to share the love of Christ with whomever the Lord sets in our paths, but how can we most effectively point people to the truth?

11:15 – 12:15, in the downstairs classroom (snacks provided!)

This week: Responding to the ultimate "Why" question -
"Why does a good God allow evil and suffering?"

Dirtbags

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH FUNDRAISER

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.LONGBEACHSTATE.COM/LBALLIANCE

BARK IN THE PARK
DOG WATER
BOWL GIVEAWAY

Dirtbags vs. **UCR**

SUN | APR. 21 | 1:00PM

BOHL DIAMOND
AT BLAIR FIELD

**TICKETS
ARE \$12 EACH!**



HOW TO CREATE A TECH-READY HOME

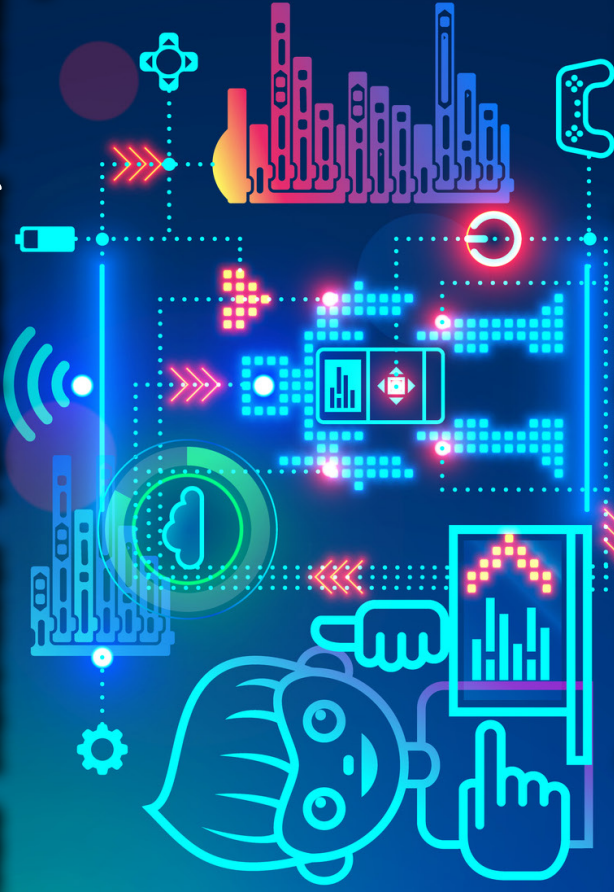
FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, & YOUTH LEADERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

6:30-8:00PM

PRESENTED BY

PROTECT
young eyes



You won't want to miss this free workshop, provided by Chris McKenna, founder/CEO of Protect Young Eyes (protectyoungeyes.com). They help families, schools, and churches create safer digital environments and we are excited to host this workshop!

Long Beach Alliance Church - 3331 Palo Verde Ave. - Long Beach, CA 90808

Although it's not possible to create an internet-Safe home, it is possible to create one that is internet SAFER. PYE has observed what it takes to have kids learn to use technology well. And it's called the PYE Core Values. This presentation breaks down these 5 foundational values. Get ready for a ton of practical tips, solutions, and ideas you can implement right away.

PROTECT young eyes

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

(DUE TO SENSITIVE CONTENT CHILDREN ARE
DISCOURAGED FROM ATTENDING
THE PRESENTATION)

QUESTIONS? MEGHAN BREARLEY
562.708.9261 OR MEGHAN@LBAC.ORG

USE THE QR CODE TO
RESERVE YOUR
FREE SPOT





Tea Under the Sea

PRESENTED BY LBAC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

May 11, 2024

11:00am-1:30pm  \$16/per person

TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 21 AND 28
HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND UP

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH
3331 PALO VERDE AVE.
LONG BEACH, CA 90808

If you'd like to host a table or
have questions contact
Meghan 562.708.9261



LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Weekly Schedule

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts

Sunday, April 21

- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 11:15AM Questioning Evangelism Class
- 1:00PM CSULB Dirtbag Game Fundraiser

Monday, April 22

- 7:00PM Pure Desire Ministry Meeting
- 7:00PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous

Tuesday, April 23

- 2:00PM Staff Meeting
- 7:00PM Elder Meeting
- 7:00PM Betrayal & Beyond Mtg @ Eberharts
- 7:00PM Men's Bible Study @ the Millers
- 7:00PM Middle/High School Youth Group

Wednesday, April 24

- 6:30PM AWANA
- 6:30PM Betrayal & Beyond @ Eberharts/Zoom

Thursday, April 25

- 9:30AM Women's Bible Study @ the Millers
- 6:30PM Bible Study @ the Holland/Carriveaus
- 6:30PM Protect Young Eyes Presentation
- 7:00PM Betrayal and Beyond @ the Eberhart's

Friday, April 26

- 8:00AM Men's In-Person/Zoom Bible Study
- 8:00PM NA In-Person Meeting

Saturday, April 27

- 10:00AM For Freedom Workshop
- 10:00AM Vision School
- 10:00AM Youth & Women Arts & Crafts Party

Sunday, April 28

- 9:30AM Gospel Project: Children's Ministry
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration Service
- 11:15AM Questioning Evangelism Class

MISSIONS

Information Coming Soon!

LIFE GROUPS

Contact: office@lbac.org
Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

LBAC Children's Ministries!

Sunday Mornings:
Gospel Project @ 9:30AM

AWANA

LBAC AWANA

Wednesday Nights September-May

YOUTH MINISTRIES

LBAC Youth Ministries!

LBAC Youth Instagram Page

Every Tuesday Night @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

LBAC Women's Ministry!

Women's Ministry Event Information

Contact: office@lbac.org

Lydia House Meals Ministry
3rd Thursday of each month

Women Connecting with Missions
Contact Kathie Metz: kathiemetz@msn.com

Crafty Women
3rd Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

MEN'S MINISTRIES

LBAC Men's Ministry!

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

long beach alliance church offices

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For prayer requests: prayer@lbac.org

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**THE
ALLIANCE**