

Getting the Best from Jesus at Your Group Meeting

CareMection

I don't know about your group, but when our group meets we struggle to recognize and depend on the most important person in the room. We tend to acknowledge everyone in attendance and anticipate his/her affect on the experience except Jesus.

I have often rationalized that this is true because we can't see Him. But this is no excuse as His presence can be felt (That is, if I've been getting together with Him on an ongoing basis between meetings.) and due to the fact that He told us when a couple of us get together He is there with us (Matt. 18:20). At other times I've rationalized that He's absent because we don't hear Him speak. But this is an absurd justification because He said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27).

While we can't see Jesus or hear His voice audibly, He is at our gatherings and wants and needs to be the most influential person in the room. The rest of us can give opinion; He gives us truth. The rest of us can talk a group member through a problem; He can fix the problem. The rest of us can pray for healing; He can heal. The rest of us can hold someone accountable for sin; Jesus can free group members from "the sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1).

Recognizing and depending on Jesus during group meetings is a very important aspect of group life. The synergy of a small group is not all it could and should be unless we recognize Jesus' influence and allow Him room to do what only He can do. When we do this He will accomplish things far beyond human comprehension.

Welcoming Jesus to be a group participant isn't difficult:

1. **Acknowledge Jesus presence early in the experience.** Sing to Him. If someone in the group plays guitar ask them to bring it and guide the group in singing a few worship songs. Another option is to read a few of the Psalms that tell of God's power and presence. An even more potent and personal alternative is to speak to Him in prayer. Say something like, "Jesus, we know you are here tonight, please do what only You can do. We look forward to what you have in store for us."
2. **If a group member is struggling with a personal issue stop and talk to Jesus about it by praying.** Speak to Him as though He is in the room. After all, He is.
3. **When someone is seeking counsel first ask the question... What does Jesus have to say about this?** Then ask group members to share what Jesus has to say about the situation in His Word, the Bible. You may need to give the group time to find this information in the Bible but it will be worth it. Sometimes a group member will voice his/her own opinion. That opinion may contradict what the Bible says. Remind group members that Jesus' words trump all opinions.
4. **Listen for Jesus to speak.** While it may make some group members uncomfortable at first, when there is an issue the Bible doesn't speak to, ask group members to go to a place where they can be alone with God. Ask them to listen for Him to give direction. Call the group back together in time. In many instances no one will come back with a word from Him, other times they will. Either way, your group members are reminded that listening to God is an important and normal spiritual discipline.
5. **When there is an awkward silence ask the question, "What do you think Jesus is thinking right now?"** This may sound strange but this will acknowledge His presence and will reboot the conversation.
6. **When a group member needs a miracle, request it.** Asking God to do something huge allows Him to be God and you to prove that you and your group believe He is God. He may not respond immediately. He may not respond the way you would like. But expecting mountains to move is part of the faith journey (Matt. 17:20). Growth will take place if He responds as requested and growth will take place if His answer to your request is no.

By Rick Howerton

From www.smallgrouptrader.com

April 21st, 2010

firstBaptistchurch

Life group prayer and praise

- Dale needs prayer.
- Please pray for **Sara Mae Zell**, she has a compression fracture and is in a great deal of pain.
- **Greg Knudsen**—23— in Harlan, IA ,was diagnosed with a brain tumor, he has been thru 25 treatments and needs our prayers.
- Please continue to pray for the pain in my lower back. My son, **Nathan** still needs a fulltime job, please pray that his part-time job can turn into that. ~ **Carolyn Kelly**
- **Rose Toscano** asks that you would please pray for her and her family.
- I have three different infections, pray that they don't become on going because if they do, surgery would have to be done. ~ **Linda Royer**
- Please pray for **Kyla Knospe** who is having some issues with her breathing. ~ **Shelly Rohde**
- Please pray for **Jane Rodriguez's family**, that they could come to a mutually agreeable understanding and that her brothers would be sensitive to the wishes of the rest of the family.
- **Sandra Signs** needs prayer.
- Please pray for **ZoAnn McBride** and her housing situation.
- Please continue to pray for **Camp 3:16** and it's mission in Mexico and **Lou and Pat's** safe return.
- Please pray for my 18 yr old daughter **Amanda Peterson**. ~**Debra Waldron**
- Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**
- Please continue to pray for **my dad's** health. ~**Sharon Young**
- Please pray that a door would open for **Ed** to have a stable job. We are in need of a home. ~ **Ed & Lynn Biggs**

FBC for Christ Mission Offering Sunday, April 25th



Brian Stewart



Bryan Blair

Pray for our Military

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.
- Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- David Coyle—son of Karen Mark— residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.
- Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.
- Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard-Serving at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie



Check out our FBC website @ www.fbc-everett.org

Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by florence miller

Ray and Betty Reeves invite everyone to help them celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary with cake and coffee on Sunday, April 25th, right after the 10:30 morning worship.

Sara Mae Zell needs prayers following a fall. She has a compression fracture in her back and is in lots of pain. She is in Pacific Rehab, room #301. Her IV for pain has been removed but now is hoping for medication to relieve the still existing pain. She says the presence of doctors has been scarce. The cause of the fall was getting her feet tangled in the floor -touching bedspread --another item to be wary of!

Eleanor Peterson's memorial service is scheduled for Thursday, May 6th at 2:00 p.m. at Everett First Baptist. If you would like to help with cookies, please bring them into the kitchen marked for this service. Also, if you would like to help **Karen** in the kitchen.

Lou and Pat Alvarez are returning from Merida, MX on Sunday, May 2nd. Pat writes that they are looking forward to seeing, family, friends and their dog, Crosby. However, they will miss everyone in the Yucatan.

Spring Break is always a great time to get away: **Vince, Leslie, Andrew and Adam Ivelia** traveled to Washington DC. **Darrell, Andrew and Chris Olson** drove to Pullman so Andrew could look over WSU. They also played some golf while there. **Doug and Terri Brundage** traveled to Virginia, visiting Jamestown, Yorktown, Colonial Williamsburg and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello to see historical sites. They also took a bus tour to Washington, D.C. They report a great trip and wonderful weather. **Arlan and Hyesook Johnson** vacationed in Victoria, B.C.

Lt C. Tony Tysseling (U.S.A. Ret.) represented the Seattle area Reserve Officers' Association last Saturday at the Mariner's Military Appreciation Night. He, along with about 50 others, were honored on the field in a very special pre-game ceremony. Each member of the various services was in full uniform. Lois reports "it was way cool! and the grandkids loved seeing Papa in his uniform".

From the Web of Camp John 3:16: a team of volunteers from the pueblo of Tixkokob traveled to the property on Saturday and broke and hauled rock for the foundation of the first dormitory. Since all the buildings' foundations will need rock, that is a huge task. As it was, the Tixkokob church and their pastor, Arturo, gathered two huge piles of rock for which the Merida workers were most grateful.

Now is the time to register for Ross Point camp. Mark your vacation calendars etc. Questions, feel free to email **Steve Dittoe** at stevedittoe@verizon.net. The cabins and lodges are all full, but you can still take your RV and/or tent. Dates for Ross Point are July 25th thru the 31st.



A Memorial Bench in remembrance of your loved one is being placed at First Baptist Church. Cost for each name is \$40.00 and is available on a first come, first served basis. Please call Debbie Benedetto, or Oma Kiniry, for more information.

Please make your check out to Debbie/Memorial Bench, you can pick up an application in the Office.



Join us for VBS...As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will learn about God's amazing love and His Word, the Bible! We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks— all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children.

Where: FBC Campus **When: June 28th-July 2nd**
Time: 9am-12:00 **Who: Kindergarten-5th Grade**



Check out our FBC website @ www.fbc-everett.org

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

Greeters needed

Greeters needed: Carol Kelly is looking for a few good people!
We have a need for more greeters during the services on Sunday morning. If you would like to help out, please call her.

USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

April— Pete Sontra
Lucky Elkins
May— Craig Reisen
Ron & Kay Olson

COFFEE HOUR 2010

April 25th
Mel Tessness
Church Elders
May 2nd
Bill Erickson
Clipper Class
May 9th
Tom Warren
Men of Integrity
May 16th
Deanna Baird
Life Issues

- April 21st, Michaela Love, Joy Peterson.
- Kaye Peterson
- April 22nd, Mary Hards, Maynard Holttum
- April 24th, Ray Reeves
- April 25th, Janette Thompson
- April 26th, Cary Ingalls, Marissa Ingalls,
Oscar Washington
- April 27th, Bob Dixon

Happy Birthday

Update

April 18th, 2010

Adult attendance: 283

Children: 9 am: 38 + 12 10:30 am 55 + 16

Youth Small Group: 7 + 2 + 14 + 4 Middle School: 14 + 2

S.A.M. Happenings

Days seem to whiz by and it will be May 7th before we know it. That is the date for our next luncheon. I'm sure there will be a full house for the anticipated program. Susie Tucker does storytelling in character and she will be doing "a Visit from Corrie Ten Boom". Sign up with Shirley Schapler at the SAM desk or give her a call.

May 8th is the bus trip to view the Snohomish Vaudeville show. There are a few seats left. The cost is \$8.00 with the bus leaving the parking lot at 1:30. Tickets must be purchased soon so hurry and get your name in!

The 2010/11 dues of \$10.00 are now due. Mary would like everyone to pay by June 1st so she can get going on the handbook. (If no dues are paid; then your name will not be in the handbook)

The book sale is coming up at the June luncheon meeting. - that's another month away - so bring any books you've finished reading which you consider good so they can be added to the collection that David says already contain a lot of great new ones.

Check out our NEW Women's & Men's Bible Studies

ANointed TRANSFORMED REDEEMED
A Study of David
Beth Moore, Kay Arthur & Priscilla Shirer

Wednesdays,
April 21st
6:30 pm
CC - #156

\$13.00 for the book

DISCOVERING HOW TO IMPACT YOUR WORLD

UNCOMMON DARE TO BE COMMON

Men's Bible Study
\$8.50 for the study book
Wednesdays
April 14-May 26th
6:30-8:00

TONY DUNGY

Check out our FBC website @ www.fbc-everett.org