



# Learning to Be Jesus to Others in Your Small Group

by Brandy Bruce

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## CareNnection

To be honest, I was a little nervous.

My hand rested on my five-month pregnant belly as I listened to the instructions given at the Denver Rescue Mission. I stood with the other ten members of our small group, waiting to serve the evening meal at the shelter. Just minutes before, I'd seen a line of people gathering outside the small mission in downtown Denver.

We were assigned our individual responsibilities and took our places. As I stood at my post behind the salad bowl, my mind thought back to the conversation among our group just a few weeks before. Meeting together and studying Scripture is great, Jason, our leader, had said. But we should find ways to serve our community, to show God's heart from people through our actions. Serving meals at a shelter had been just one of the ideas mentioned that night.

And so there I was: pregnant, standing behind a long table with tongs in my hand, the first in line to serve the salad. My heart was pounding as the doors opened and people began filing in.

But as person after person walked through the line, my anxiety disappeared and I only felt more and more thankful for the opportunity to be a part of what we were doing. A man walked by wearing layers of clothing to protect him from the bitter cold in Colorado; a woman with her son; two college-aged, clean-cut men with old suitcases; a few people who couldn't speak English; young people, old people, alone and together, some with shy smiles, others lowering their eyes in shame—all hungry, needing someone to care enough to help.

After the doors finally closed, we swept floors and wiped tables. I found myself working by a young woman who was a regular volunteer. "Lunch time can be a bit harder," she told me. "We get more women and children then. It can break your heart."

I thought about her words long after we left that night. And I relaxed that I needed my heart to break for these people. We all did. We needed to feel enough compassion and concern to get involved—to take us out of our comfort zone and into the places where Jesus would want to go.

The mood among our group was different as we left. We were smiling and excited, talking about different people we'd met and how we felt about the experience. And I realized that doing acts of service together actually helped us grow as a small group. Studying Scripture together is just one way for people to grow in their faith and their sense of community. Rolling up your sleeves and participating in some sort of activity meant to benefit others is another, powerful way to grow in faith and community.

Acts of service come in all shapes and sizes. One

weekend our group took time to help paint the house of one of our small group members. Another time one of the guys from our group came up with the idea to organize a flag football game for our church. We encouraged people to participate and bring monetary donations if possible. After the game, the money was collected and donated to Compassion International. Sometimes living in community looks like a small group bringing meals to a family with a newborn. Other times it might look like donating clothes or personal items to a local shelter for abused women. Take the time to brainstorm with your group and come up with ways you can help each other and others in need.

Consider the verse below:

*If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you can—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends...Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. (Philippians 2:1-4, The Message)*

Incorporating service into our small group taught us the importance of being Jesus to other people. But what surprised me most was the fact that we began to have a better understanding of the privilege and responsibility of consistently being Jesus to each other.

If your small group wants to get involved in your community, below are just a few ideas to get you started:

- Serve meals at a soup kitchen.
- Help clean the sanctuary/bathrooms at your church one afternoon.
- Provide a meal for a youth group get together.
- Visit a nursing home.
- Help a family with home repairs.
- Donate used items to the Salvation Army.
- Pool together resources to support a Compassion International child for a year.
- Host a food drive through your church and donate what's collected to your local food bank.

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# Life group prayer and praises

- Praise God and thank you! My mom's breast cancer surgery went well! Cameron and I would like to ask for continued prayer for her, **Sandy Abood**, as she begins radiation treatments. ~**Jenn Decker**
- **Sylvia Smith** asks that we pray for her, she wants to get involved and feel like she's a part of the FBC family. Pray too for her relationship to her own family. Please reach out to this lovely lady.
- Please pray for me as I have depression and it can really get to you, I have God in my life and know He will help me. ~**Watkins**
- My brother, **Duane Neyens**, is in the national guard, his unit has been activated and they will be going to Afghanistan the first of May, please pray for him. ~**Kathy Chapman**
- My friend, **Mark Wexelberg**, was in a bad motorcycle accident. Pray for his recovery as he suffered many broken bones. Yet God protected his neck and back from trauma. He and his wife are strong Christians and are believing God for complete recovery. Pray for their young son, **Christian** (4-1/2 years old) who is not understanding the whole situation. ~**Christen W.**
- Pray for my friend's father **Jim Bender** who has stage 3 prostate cancer. Prayer that his treatment will be successful and that throughout all this that he will find the Lord. ~**Judy Warren**
- Please pray for my brother who is not feeling well, jobs, and my daughter who I miss and wish was here. ~ **Peter Johnson**
- **PJ Conner** asks that we pray for **Jake Huber**.
- **Tracey Ayers-Tate** just received her layoff notice from Boeing, please pray that she can find another job quickly.
- Please pray for the **Roullier** family the Lord's provision for them in their current house situation.
- I need prayer to strengthen me as **Nina's father Alex** moves here to Washington with his new wife, he is going to sue for custody. ~**Darcy Stanyo**
- Our **students** will be taking a mission trip to Mexico this summer from July 10-20. We will be working with **Pastor Gama** at a Children's camp in Merida, Mexico. It will be a lot of hard work but will be very rewarding as we are expanding our understanding of the Kingdom of God. It will be an honor for the leaders and students of the trip to go as representatives of First Baptist Church. Please continue to keep our team in your prayers.
- Please continue to pray for **Leanne Durham**, the oral chemo treatment she is taking is working! And she has had no ill effects from it and no new symptoms—Praise God all is going well.
- **Rich Carroll**, pastor of Lakeshore Community Church in Vancouver, WA, would like to pass along his thanks and prayers of praise for the word about **his wife, Londa**. The doctors discovered she has a liver infection and will be treated with intensive antibiotic therapy over the next 2-3 weeks. While she has a lot of recovering to do, it is not cancer, which was one of the possibilities given earlier in the week. Please pray for her continued recovery.
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## Pray for our military

- *Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.*
- *Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.*
- *Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Bragg.*
- *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.*
- *Elijah Austin —Ashley Naylor's husband—a Marine—Stationed at 29 Palms in California.*
- *David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.*
- *Adam Flynn—a young Marine going back for his second tour in Iraq.*
- *Brett Love—grandson of Wilma— Army National Guard-Serving second tour in Iraq.*
- *Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.*
- *Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.*
- *Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.*
- *Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.*
- *Doug Baer—a teacher at Kamiak HS heading to Iraq in the Army Reserves—thru Sept. 09.*
- *Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan*

# Life Group Happenings

all in the family

by *florence miller*

CONGRATULATIONS! " Mom" **Kelly Brock** sends the following email: " Congratulations **Alex** on making the Deans list at U.W. Son, we are very, very proud of you!! Way to Go!" His friends at First Baptist echo the praise.

A 30th wedding anniversary is coming up for **Doug and Terry Brundage** on May 19th. To celebrate the occasion they took advantage of this past week's Spring Break with a seven day cruise to the Mexican Rivera. They report a good time and nice warm weather.

Also, during **Pat Schmidt's** Spring Break this week, she is traveling to Mexico to visit husband **Gene**.

**Lois Caldwell** will be going in for further surgery on April 9th. She is the

lovely lady who supplies those good cookies after church on the first Sunday of every month. This month it will need to be other volunteer bakers.

**Janet Shane's brother, John Kirby**, is in Kirkland's Evergreen Hospital after a heart attack last Saturday. About fifteen years ago he had four-way bypass surgery and now, after more years than the ten predicted, three of the arteries collapsed. They are gradually bringing him out of an induced coma but he is in serious condition. The Shane and Kirby families are in prayer and ours will be appreciated also.

Our friend, **Barb Bjornson** had surgery this past Monday morning for a painful torn ligament suffered from a fall.

**Jerry Allen** was admitted into Providence Hospital, Colby Campus with pneumonia this past Friday morning. He is very ill and is not having visitors but prayers are needed. His oxygen level is low (88 % ) and needs to be at least 90 percent before he can go home. Cards may be sent - but no visitors!

**Lorren Olsen's** memorial will be here at FBC on Monday, April 13th at 2:00 pm.

The beautiful flowers that you will see in the sanctuary for Easter are going to be for sale—if you would like one of these please go into the church office and sign up—or you can call 425.259.9166.

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**Celebrate Holy Week**  
*"Walking In The Footsteps of Jesus"*

- Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
*"Christ in the Passover"*
- Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm  
*"Passion of the Christ"*
- Easter Worship Celebration,  
Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 and 11:00 am

*Jews for Jesus*  
*April 9th, 7:00 pm - Worship Center*  
**Christ in the Passover**



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# Life group contributing opportunities

## Happy Birthday

April 8th Steve Hofert  
April 9th Howard Crowley  
April 10th Del Hards, Darrell Olson  
April 11th Anita Prinzing  
April 12th Vince Ivelia  
April 13th Joanne Beecher-Vanhorn  
April 14th Donna Wirt

We're on the web! CareNecton, Hub & Bulletin—check it out!

See how we look in color—

[www.fbc-everett.org](http://www.fbc-everett.org)

We are thinking about saving the churches money and no longer mailing out the Hub Please give us some feedback!

This prayer request comes from our Executive Minister, Dr. Charles Revis.

The River Christian Church, the newest church in the ABCNW, will be launched on Easter Sunday, April 12th. Pastor Dave Griewe came to the Boise area in the Spring of 2008 with a clear sense that God was calling him to plant a new congregation. He and his wife, Cathy, settled on the Eagle area. Although there are other growing churches in Eagle he believed there was a need for a church specifically targeting people who would not come to a traditional church. They are seeking to reach people that no other church is reaching. Part of their strategy is to create a "come as you are" culture, making it extremely easy for the unchurched to attend and check out spiritual issues. The ABCNW churches in the Intermountain Area have welcomed this new work with open arms, and many have lent their support in a variety of ways.

The River Christian Church held their first preview service on February 28th. They had 101 people in attendance. 20 of these were new people. They had one re-commitment to Christ. They enjoyed rave reviews from feedback received from the guests. And, the service went well. No glitches, according to reports from Pastor Dave.

They have continued with preview services each Sunday since getting prepared for the big launch on Easter Sunday. They've assembled a full staff. People are getting excited. Would you join us in praying for the Lord's blessing on this new work in our Region?

Pastor Dave has requested the following specific prayer requests: "Pray that people will come to church! We ordered 4,000 extra cards to Distribute door to door in the neighborhoods surrounding the school where we meet. Pray for them to be well received and for a huge response! Pray for God to open the floodgates so we can lead many people to Christ over the next three weeks. Pray for our Easter and Grand Opening service details. We go to two services on Easter 9:30 & 11:00. Our hope is to stay with two services and not look back.

Our children's ministry will have a special Petting Zoo on Easter Sunday. Pray for all the details to be worked out, including having enough animals and for us to find the money to pay for the cost of animals and set up."

Pastor Dave and Cathy have been beset by several medical challenges in the midst of this new work. Please keep their health in your prayers.

You can learn more about this new project at [www.riverchristianchurch.com](http://www.riverchristianchurch.com). Also, you can request to be on Dave's email list. He sends out a weekly update on their progress and needs. His email is [Pastordg@aol.com](mailto:Pastordg@aol.com). The church needs financial support. If you can help, even if it is a small amount, they would appreciate it. There is also a need for assistance in paying for their medical bills.

*Purchase now~ White Lace Cap Hydrangeas available after Easter Sunday for \$25.00 each. Florist quality to beautify your home and yard. May need cold protection this year as they are in bloom. Also available Red/Pink Calla lilies in bloom for \$ 10.00 each. Please sign up and pay in the office.*

Time is limited to reserve your tickets for the Women of Faith Conference in Seattle on July 24th and 25th. We have tickets available, but we need to have them confirmed by April 15th. Please see Ruelyn Nelson or Eva LaStrange at the info table in the Hospitality Room before or after our church service.

If you would like to get more info or confirm your ticket please contact Ruelyn .

On Easter Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> during both services we will be celebrating individuals' commitment to Christ through the waters of baptism. If you have personally accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, but have not publicly announced and celebrated that decision through baptism, please prayerfully consider taking this next step on Easter Sunday. If you would like more information about baptism, or would like to schedule your baptism for Easter Sunday, contact Pastor Allan: [allan@fbc-everett.net](mailto:allan@fbc-everett.net) or call the church office at 425.259.9166.

### Update

April 5th , 2009

Adult attendance: 313

Children: 9 am||21

10:30 am||45

Youth Small Group:||20

Leaders:||10

### USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

April—Luckey Elkins

Pete Sontra

May—Ron and Kay Olson

Craig Reisen

### COFFEE HOUR 2009

April 12th

Florence Miller

Women of Purpose

April 19th

Arlee Barker

Unplugged

April 26th

Mel Tessness

Church Elders

May 3rd

Bill Erickson

Clipper Class