

CARENECTION

THE E-WORD

by Brandt Siegel

"Are we expecting too much of them?" I asked my co-leader, Amber. We were planning our semester, and we decided that we wanted to lead our group a little differently than the last Spring semester.

Expectations. Expecting. Webster's Dictionary defines expecting: "to consider reasonable, due or necessary." The term made me cringe a little bit: a small group should be an inviting space with no expectations, right?

The Apostle Paul says that a runner "trains" to get the "prize" (1 Cor. 9:24-27). Expectations are like the drills that we need to become successful runners and attain the prize for God. What Amber and I learned is that setting and keeping ambitious expectations are an essential part challenging a small group.

Expectations are Fundamental

We couldn't help then but to set some expectations and defined goals. When we advertised our group Journey in the church group promotional guide, we set our first expectation. We will meet at place X and at Y o'clock. We expect that if you want to be a part of the Journey, you'll be there at that time, right?

Not exactly. We can decide to take our group to a higher level of challenge than just attending. We expected more from our members and ourselves. Now we didn't use the E-word but instead dis-

cussed it with our members as "How to make the most of Journey." Here's part of our list:

1. Invest yourself. You get out of it what you put into it.
2. Read the chapter before each meeting and early in the week.
3. Memorize the weekly verse. Meditate on it for the week.
4. Set ambitious goals for the semester.

Amber and I were worried about how the new members would receive this list and how the discussion would go, but the response was unexpected. "That's what I need," one member said. "I wanted to join a group that pushes me." It was a reminder that we join small groups precisely because we want to be challenged to move closer to God. That usually doesn't happen without us expecting something from ourselves, and our members.

For example, as part of expectation #3, each member had to recite the memory verse at the beginning of our meeting. Yes, it put people on the spot, but it was a "reasonable" and "necessary" part of being in the group and walking with God. The expectation established a godly habit and even camaraderie amongst the group as we all met the challenge—albeit a small one—together.

Expectations Go Both Ways

Before beginning our group, Amber and I also set expectations for ourselves, and we told our group about those expectations. For instance, while we expected our members to show up on time, we also promised to end on time. We also promised to read the chapter and prepare for a good discussion, memorize and recite the weekly verse, set a predictable semester calendar, and set goals for ourselves as leaders and fellow members. Our expectations let everyone know that as leaders we took the group seriously and wanted it to be worthwhile in their walk with God.

I can't stress enough how much your investment as a leader pays dividends in your members' investment in the group. Knowing that we all had the same expectations together on the journey opened the way for trust, accountability, and pursuit of our semester goals.

Get Over It

So, get over any hesitation of setting expectations. It's possible—even essential—to balance expectations with openness to the surprises God has for your group. Set expectations, make them ambitious, and keep them for your members and yourself. See what happens. You might have powerful experiences that are wholly unexpected.

From smallgroupexchange.com

Life group prayer and praise

- **Dave Kerr & family** needs prayer, Dave is a co-worker and employee and is in the hospital with a torn artery that is causing back problems. Pray for healing and God's peace. ~**Marc Owenby**
- Please pray for **Ruth LeMaster**, she needs a used small economy very low cost car would prefer a Honda or Subaru as she does a lot of driving for her work.
- Prayer request for **Karen Erickson's** father **Lloyd Johnson**. He is undergoing chemotherapy treatment and his next one will be very strong. Pray for good results so treatment will be less intense and for healing.
- **Candi Shively** asks that we pray for her family.
- Praise God! Please spread the word ... **Brandon and Amy** are the proud parents of baby **Elizabeth** – 7 lbs 2 oz, born shortly after 8 p.m. via c section. **Elizabeth** is doing well, but mom could use lots of rest. Please be in prayer for them all – this event is indeed a miracle. To God be the glory!!
- Prayer request for **Christen** as she was in car accident prior to arriving at Ross Point. The family was not hurt but the car had damage and Christen needs prayer for the finances to cover the deductible and the extra cost of car rental above what the insurance doesn't cover.
- Prayer request for **Darcy** as she tries to figure out the finances to get her and Nina to CA one last time to finish up the closing of her **Aunt Donna's** home.

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 safely home and out of military*
- *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.*
- *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*
- *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*

Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by Florence Miller

Nadine Iversen's caretaker drove her to Bothell to visit **Eloise Lambright** in her care facility. Eloise was so glad to visit with Nadine and Nadine was so happy to report that Eloise is happy in her surroundings. Happiness all around!

Ginnie Hamilton was recently in the hospital suffering from high blood pressure, dehydration and other symptoms. Husband **Bill** is happy to have her back home now where they both are recovering. The good news is that Ginnie is feeling back to normal and Bill can now drive. Both of them expressed their gratitude with the following note: "We are so thankful for your love and support during the past few weeks. Your prayers have truly sustained us as the Lord has poured out his blessings on both of us."

Very tiny, beautiful one week old **Elizabeth** created quite a sensation as she visited church this past Sunday with her parents, **Amy and Brandon**. They give thanks to the Lord for their miracle child.



Come join us as we cheer on the Everett Aqua Sox baseball team on Wednesday Aug 5th at 7 pm.

This event is designed for the whole family. Sign up for your tickets Now!

Place your orders now for fruits & veggies

For prices and orders please Contact

Ron Newman

425-397-0676



Life group contributing opportunities

A Study of PSALM 119 Discovering and Using God's Treasures

Summer Bible study Wednesdays, at 12:00 pm in the Pacific Room.

Dr. Fred Prinzing is teaching a 12 week Bible Study on Psalm 119 on Wednesdays from noon until 1 pm. This Bible Study is open to people from both the church and community. July 1—Sept. 16, 2009

There is no charge for enrollment. Invite a friend.

Happy Birthday

Gene Dobson	August 5th
John VanDalen	August 7th
Larry Gallagher	August 8th
Jill Iversen	August 8th
John Mullen	August 8th
Lois Olson	August 8th
William Krag	August 9th
Kathy Weston	August 10th



This Sunday, August 9, at the 9:00 hour, Gama Canul and his family from Merida, Mexico will be visiting with us. Refreshments will be served and you'll hear an interesting presentation from Gama and our Merida Youth Team who have just returned from serving with him in the Yucatan.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend

Adult attendance: 183 Children: 9 am: 18/9 10:30 am: 43/19

Youth Small Group: Middle School 15/7
High School 11/3

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

August—Ron & Kay Olson
Craig Reisen

COFFEE HOUR 2009

August 9
John Mullen
Life Group

August 16
Laura Oversvee
Women of Purpose

August 23
Kay Olson
Home Fellowship

We Pray
Teach Us to Pray

New Wednesday LIFE Group!

“We Pray Group”

- Meeting in the Community Center (Room 152)
- Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- No childcare available this summer.