

Getting the Best from Jesus at Your Group Meeting *by Rick Howerton*

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.

From SmallGroupExchange.com



Life group prayer and praise

- Prayer for **Brian Stewart and family** as they deal with the passing of **Brian's mom Ann Stewart**. Funeral service will be held here at FBC on Friday July 24th at 10:00 a.m.
- Prayer for **family of Sylvia Smith** as they deal with her passing on Sunday July 12th. Praise that her family was with her at the hospital as she went home to our Lord.
- Pray for **Candy and family** that the Lord will protect her children from abusive father and the courts will see to keep them safe from him. Lord lift **Candy** up in this troubled time.
- **Linda Royer** needs prayer for her pain associated with her MS and prayer for her niece **Robin Ann** who has been diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- **Alison Nealy** asks for continued prayer for her cousin **Lisa** The doctors did surgery on the 9th and removed most of the cancer but it will be a long recovery ahead with 1 year of chemotherapy and radiation.
- Pray for my brother **Marshall** who had open lung surgery on Tuesday July 14th pray for his doctors as well. ~ **Rose Toscano**
- Pray for **Keith Wilson** as he travels to Davis, CA for his sister **Barbara's** memorial service and pray for her husband **Dick** who will miss her very much after 65 years of marriage.
- Our students are on a mission trip to Mexico this summer from July 10-20. They are working with **Pastor Gama** at a Children's camp in Merida, Mexico. Please everyone keep them in your prayers until their safe return to us.
- Prayer for **Midge Ellis's family** that the Lord will show them what needs to be done and that he will watch over **Aiden** and protect him.
- Praise the new arrival of **Chloe Rae McKinly** born 7/8/09 7 lbs 5oz to **Chelsea Mckinly**. Both mother and baby are doing fine.
- Praise God the Trustee's have decided we may bury my aunt **Donna**
- Prayer for **Luquin family** who were in head on collision on Monday near Redmond OR. All the family were injured but all survived ~**Rev. Dave Roberts** Region office American Baptist Churches.



Pray for our military

- *JonathMichaels 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.*

Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by *florence miller*

It is with sadness that we accept the home-going of **Sylvia Smith** who left her wheelchair at the hospital on Sunday evening, the 12th to go dancing with the Lord. She was a sweet, smart and classy lady and those of us who shared her presence in life groups and sanctuary will miss her. Her memorial service will be held at our First Baptist Church at 11 a.m. on Thursday the 16th.

We also grieve along with **Shirlene Walker** whose daughter **Edwina** died this past week and whose memorial service was on Wednesday the 8th.

Bill Hamilton is still in the hospital after his surgery to replace leg veins. So far, however, his blood pressure has not been stabilized.

Mabel Elder reports that from her visit on this past Monday that Bill walked some for the first time. Prayers are needed for **Bill and Ginnie**.

Eleanor Peterson's son, Dan has been visiting her from Okinawa, Japan for ten days, leaving this past Monday. Eleanor says that Dan worked on her "Honey to-do" list and got a lot done.

Terry and Doug Brundage just returned from a great trip which included Yosemite, Lake Tahoe and Virginia City. Take a look at their pictures on Facebook.

Camille Yocum reminds us to keep praying for our **young people** on their **mission to Mexico**. They will be working with two groups of kids that range in age from 8-18 and there will be 300 kids that come through the camp in that week. Camille says that this will be a great time of growth for our teens and the leaders. For most of them this is the first time going on a mission trip. It can have a great impact on their lives and the way they look at things. And Camille asks that we pray each day for one or two of the team members, that God would use them anyway possible.

A note from **Brian Harpell** tells of their current trip to Nova Scotia. His family has not been back there for four years and while there will spend time with Brian's sister and her family and his folks. He states that "for the first time ever all of us cousins are having a reunion. Cousins are flying in from Victoria, B.C., Toronto, Chicago and other places. Some of us haven't seen each other for thirty years though we literally grew up next door to each other. We will spend three days on Prince Edward Island, the home of Anne of Green Gables, and we are looking forward to a famous Atlantic lobster dinner. Additionally we will be there when the tall sailing ships will be in Halifax."

Steve and LaNell Jansen celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last week. Congratulations!

Alan Carter, the son-in-law of **Lysle and Lois Pickard**, gives thanks for prayers answered: his Social Security disability request has been approved; he continues to be able to wiggle his toes; he is able to speak in a whisper and sometimes can get enough air through the valve to speak much louder. Alan remains strong and positive. He is on the Passey-Muir valve more frequently and this is important in his getting off the track. In a serious episode of his feeding tube becoming completely blocked (by nurses not following instructions) fervent prayers for help to avert not having to once again be transported back to Evergreen Hospital, were answered by a nurse with experience from another wing of the rehab center. Prayers work!

Darlene Hegeberg's sister, **Mary Townsend**, has a strep infection from her stay at the Mayo clinic. It is in a cyst in her back causing extreme pain. She is on four antibiotics.



Our Mission Team

God Bless you for praying for our team who will be working with about 250 children. May God bless their experience in Mexico May they share their love of Christ and bring others to know him as well.

Place your orders

Green Beans , Peaches, Nectarines,
Apricots, Cantaloupe and
Watermelon. For prices and orders
please contact

Ron Newman at
425-397-0676



S.A.M. PICNIC
JULY 20TH
NOON

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.

There is no charge for enrollment. Invite a friend.

Women Of Faith

Women of Faith "Grand New Day" Conference in Seattle at Key Arena July 24 and 25, 2009.

Ruelyn has tickets and will hold them until everyone leaves on Friday the 25th or will have the tickets at the church on Sunday the 19th for you to pick up. Contact Ruelyn Nelson at 425-397-9239 or ruelyn@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Friday Night Update

Friday Nights continue to be full of God's grace and a witness to his faithfulness. The prayer requests below are heartfelt and I have had the wonderful opportunity to pray with some of these individuals and others chose to remain somewhat anonymous as they slip their requests into our Prayer Box each week. Please join me this week in seeing with God's eyes their needs and confirming that in prayer to our Heavenly Father who loves each of us so unconditionally and completely.

TK - Barack Obama, our president. He needs our love and support.

B - A job closer to home and peace in my family. Thank the Heavenly Father. Thank you for this "Beautiful Day"

Anon - for O, that her pregnancy, school and relationships go well; and that she is surrounded by loving friends and family.

Anon - for K - he is dumb and drinks too much. God Bless him - I know you already do.

AB - for my family

BH - I want to pray for S, T, C, and D with all my love RL - Heavenly Father, I thank you for all you give me. But I need a job badly.

AC - My daughter, B, that she is safe and making the right choices and I get to have my youngest, T for overnights CH - My really good friend, W. He almost lost his eye in a work accident and then last night his mom passed away. I pray he has the strength to help him in his time of need.

JC - I would like my mother to move to Everett from a Portland nursing home.

AB - house and finances for me and my baby.

KA - for A, that he stops his ways of lust and be true to himself and others like me.

Be Blessed - Chris

Happy Birthday

Doug Brundage

Karen Visser

Vina Mills

Phyllis Allen

Eleanor Peterson

Becky Tarin

Dan Baer

Doug Weir

July 16th

July 17th

July 18th

July 19th

July 19th

July 19th

July 20th

July 21st

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

July—Pete Sontra Luckey Elkins

COFFEE HOUR 2009

July 19 Mel Tessness Church Elders

July 26 Jeanne Iversen Outreach



wëPray
Teach Us to Pray

New Wednesday LIFE Group!

"We Pray Group"

- Led by Pastor Allan Love and Team and will be meeting in the Community Center (Room 152)
- Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 p.m. Starting Wednesday July 15th
- No childcare available this summer.