

One on One:

The Deeper Matters of Discipleship

by Samantha Krieger

Gathered around the couches in our living room, my husband Jeremiah shared from Psalms about the “enemies” in David’s life. He talked about his own struggles with anger, pride, and selfishness and what God was teaching him through those struggles. He then asked, “Would anyone mind sharing some of your struggles with our group?”

He looked at Courtney, who was fairly new to our group. She took a deep breath and words began to roll off her tongue. She mentioned the difficulty of having friends who go out and drink all the time. “It’s hard for me and I’m struggling with drinking,” she said.

I thought hard about her words. I was glad she shared with our group... and that I was no longer ignorant of her struggle.

She went on to say how she knew that lifestyle wasn’t what God wanted but the pressure of single hood and living in a bustling Metropolis was difficult. Snuggling up on the couch at home with a movie and popcorn just wasn’t enough.

Courtney shared more about those struggles. She asked our group some questions and we helped her process through several scenarios. Her vulnerability encouraged others to open up and we ended up going overtime.

As a co-leader with my husband, I wanted to initiate the next steps in helping her through these struggles. I wouldn’t be where I’m at today if someone didn’t intentionally take me aside one on one and invest in the deeper matters. I could barely fall asleep that night because I was so excited by her desire to change.

Facebook, Coffee, and Conversation

I Facebooked Courtney the next day and thanked her for sharing with our group. I told her some of my issues in the past and how God has healed me from them. I mentioned that I’d love to meet for coffee soon. She wrote back saying she couldn’t believe how much she opened up to our group. She offered up the idea of meeting Saturday morning at The Pearl Cup, a modern espresso bar on the outskirts of downtown Dallas.

With porcelain mugs of Chai tea and café latte in hand, we were in heaven. We talked about life—her life growing up, her family, and her struggles. She opened up more about how she doesn’t want to spend the rest of her life being known for what she’s doing right now. She wanted to spend her life serving others—not self.

Our conversation carried on with ease. I shared certain verses that dealt with her situation, trying to encourage her that God had a plan for her life. She thanked me for not judging her.

Sensitivity to the Deeper Things

The small group my husband and I lead is the foundation to our ministry with Apartment Life where we build relationships through resident activities and dinners so that in turn, we have a platform to share the gospel. Our small group is called our Core Volunteer Team, as they serve alongside us. About once a month, we get together in our apartment to encourage them, serve dinner, and share from Scripture.

Even though the dynamics are a little different than the average small group, the role of any leader of a small group should be to help draw out the deeper matters of the heart. It would be a tragedy if as leaders we met with our group, had stellar discussion, but never knew our group’s spiritual condition and where they needed to grow.

Asking the tough questions is one way to know—the rocky soil many of us fear to tread. If we ask a question like, “Where are you struggling?” we should be prepared to answer our own question. If someone has answered it, following up with him or her is critical. It shows we care for them as a person and helping them be what God intends.

After Courtney and I met for coffee, I asked her if she’d like to go through a book together and meet regularly at The Pearl Cup. Her eyes lit up, “I’d love to! I’ve never done anything like that. When do you want to start?”

Authentic Community & Discipleship

I checked out some different resources online, keeping in mind she’d never had a quiet time. Thinking about her background and current hardships, I thought she’d enjoy reading more about Jesus’ relentless love for her. I showed her crazylovebook.com, the site for Francis Chan’s book, *Crazy Love*. She gave it a thorough look and was sold.

From our small group meeting that night, Jeremiah’s question helped strike a chord in Courtney’s heart. I may have never known what was going on in her life without her sincere answer to a difficult question.

While living in authentic community and investing in others takes hard work, sacrifice, confrontation, and lots of soul searching, I’m humbled that God would use me to help teach others by example what it means to obey and love the Lord (Matt. 28:19-20).

The purpose of a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out (Prov. 20:5).

* Name changed to Courtney to protect privacy.
From smallgroupexchange.com

Life group prayer and praise

- Please pray for **Linda**, her medication is not working like it should, she is having trouble walking, sitting and standing. Also, please pray for **Carlos**, a janitor at BIO-rad. He was badly burned and is at Harborview. ~ **John Royer**
- **Erik Linder and Ricki Taylor** (his dance partner) were on “America’s Got Talent” (Aug. 25th & Sept. 8th) pray for protection for them and that we will have traveling protection. ~ **Lars & Holly**
- **Walter Walden, Christen Weller’s father**, is home now, please pray for healing and quick recovery.
- We need continued prayer for clarity on our house. We must move by the end of August, but haven’t received clarity whether or not to buy or rent, the house we thought we found didn’t work out. ~ **Wendy Roullier**
- Please pray for **Keaton**, a heart condition was just found and we have tests coming soon. We need God’s peace and wisdom for the doctors and speed in getting in to do all the tests. ~ **Rose Toscano**
- **Dave Kerr & family** needs prayer, Dave is a co-worker and employee and has been moved to Swedish hospital after having complications from torn artery that was causing back problems it has now caused a loss to his vision. He has a team of 8 doctors and one of them **Dr. John** told Dave, “God told me you would see again so we will do everything we can to help you.” 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.

Mark your Calendars: The North Puget Sound Area Fall Convention

Is coming October 10th. David T. Olson is the special guest speaker. Watch for more info.

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.*
- *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.*
- *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

Lois Caldwell had a biopsy and more laser surgery this past week for the site of the cancer in her mouth which she has been battling. She is still awaiting results. Continued prayer is needed for this unassuming lovely volunteer cookie lady!

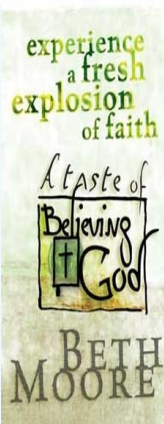
Florence Miller has had all her wonderful family around as she is completing her downsizing and move into Washington Oaks. The movers come this Wednesday but her final move probably won't be until after Labor Day when her California family leaves and everyone else gets back to their lives and jobs. Praises to the Lord for such great sons and wives

Lela Kerby has been very ill. I talked with her and she sounded terrible. Her husband is **Jim**.

SAM has only one space left for the trip to the museum in Tacoma. Please call **Shirley Schappler** to sign up.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th to celebrate Labor Day. See you Tue.

Ladies' Home Bible Study



BELIEVING GOD - Beth Moore Bible Study: Join us for another 10-week study beginning Wednesday Sept. 16th from 6:30-8:30 pm in Room 152 of the Community Center. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up using the yellow communication card or stop by the office. Books will be \$15 and the deadline for registering is Sept. 9th. Contact Lynne Harpell for more information.

NOTE NEW START DATE

The Ladies' Bible Study in Lake Stevens will be starting again on Monday, September 21st @ 7:00 pm. Our study this fall will be Kay Arthur's "Finding Hope When Life Seems Dark". This inductive study will focus on the minor prophets: Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. A chance to discover the light of God's truth shining in even the darkest circumstances. For more info contact Ruelyn Nelson @ or on line ruelyn@verizon.net.



Get to know us! Newcomer's Desserts are designed with you in mind!

"Let's get acquainted" is the emphasis at the dessert. You'll meet some of the staff and leaders from the church and other newcomers like yourself. We provide some information about the church, but the accent is on friendship. Our first fall Newcomer's Dessert is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

If you have questions or would like to sign up for a Newcomer Dessert, call the office @ 425.259.9166 or email the office at joanne@fbc-everett.org for more information.

CONNECTING CLASS : Want to explore membership—ask questions, meet pastoral staff and join others in this opportunity to explore what it means to be part of a Biblically-functioning community of faith? Next offering is Sunday Sept 27th at 9 am in Rm B56 in the Community Center. Sign up using your yellow communication card or stop by the church office.

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

Update
August 30th

Adult attendance: 274 Children: 9 am: 5+5 10:30 am: 52+17
Youth Small Group: Middle School 17+6
High School 6+3

Place your orders now for fruits & veggies

The new list for fruits and veggies is now in the office, 425-259-9166—you can call for pricing—you still need to order with Ron or Barb.

For prices and orders please Contact

Ron Newman or

Barb Lillard



Happy.. Birthday..

Sept. 3rd Brian Linari
Sept. 5th Jack Swartz
Sept. 7th Lisa Uptagrafft
Sept. 8th Dolene Posey, Lauren Tarry

ABMM Meeting

ABMM will be meeting September 17th for 12:00 pm for their monthly luncheon. The program will feature our Youth Pastor, Nathan, with a report on the Mission Teams experience in Mexico. Please come and join us by making your reservation by the 15th. Get the latest mission news. RSVP to the church office, 425-259-9166 or by calling Faith,.

Summer Aire End of Summer Concert & Ice Cream Social

Summer Aire End of Summer Concert and Ice Cream Social. Summer Aire, a group of musicians from the Everett area are again putting on a special concert at the First Presbyterian Church, 2936 Rockefeller Ave. on September 13th at 3:00 pm. There will be an old fashioned Ice Cream Social following the concert in the Westminster Hall.

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

September-Darrell Olson
Marc Owenby

COFFEE HOUR 2009

September 6th
Gene Dobson
Klahaya
September 13th
Betty Reeves
ESL
September 20th
Janet Duvarado
CR Life Group
September 27th
Marty Visser
Sunday AM