



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

April 22, 2010

Dear Life Group Friends,

What a beautiful day as I look out the window this morning! I hope you're enjoying it as much as I am. The best part of it, of course, is knowing the One who made it all.

This week's study gives you another opportunity to draw your life group members closer to Christ and to help them gain a better understanding of His plan for them by focusing on one of two great priorities in our lives. The first great commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, and souls. But there's a second priority that directly follows from it. In fact, you can find it on the fourth page of your Bible where God asks Cain, following the murder of his brother, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain's snide reply was, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Cain failed this basic test of discipleship because he had no interest in the things of God. But we do! We want to please the Lord, and here in Luke chapter 10 we're told where to begin—"Love your neighbor as yourself." What a great study as we reflect on our recent Boaz Blitz! Give those who participated in it a chance to share their experiences with the rest of the group. It's a perfect lead-in to this study of the Good Samaritan. Most of us were very young when we first heard this parable. So it's easy to pass over it without letting its truth sink into our hearts anew. For that reason, I've downloaded a message by a fiery young evangelist from Northern Ireland named David Stewart. Everybody likes an Irish accent, but let me know if you like his message. One thing I assure you, he doesn't lack passion.

This week's coaching tip may be the highlight of the resources we've provided you. It's a great article on the example of Jesus as the perfect small group leader. We'll never be able to compete with Jesus, but there is much to learn from his example. No matter what type of group you're leading, take time to read it. I know you'll enjoy it and benefit from it.

God bless you as you lead God's people closer to Him and His will for their lives. We're praying for you!

Pastors Gary and Glen