

September 16, 2010

Hi, My Faithful Life Group Friends!

Well, we're ready to kick off another school year of small group studies. Because our Life Group ministry is such a pivotal part of life at FBC, Pastor Glen and I are focusing these first few weeks on the importance of community and challenging people to start, join, or recommit themselves to attending one of our home groups. We hope that's a help in getting your members involved again.

This week's message is called "Learn to Say Yes" and is intended to help people understand that a genuine commitment to Christ involves a commitment to care for and serve with the other members of God's family. Pray that I will be successful in communicating that message in such a way that people will respond.

The questions, of course, will prepare your group for Pastor Glen's message the following Sunday, which is called "Learn to Love." He will help us understand from 1 John 4 the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in transforming us from self-centered people who have very little compassion for others to people filled with the love of Christ. This love is what compels us to care for other Christians and reach out with compassion to those who don't know Christ yet. To help you prepare for your study, I've included a message on this same topic and passage from Pastor John Piper. I'm sure you'll find it helpful and encouraging.

I'm also sending you a coaching tip you'll appreciate on how to welcome and enfold new members into your group. Who knows? You may find yourself having to do that your very first meeting. Be sure to pass on the wisdom and suggestions to the other members of your small group.

Finally, for those of you who'd like to study a different topic, I'm attaching a list of studies that are available to you by contacting the church office. Thank you for your loving service and don't hesitate to call or email us if we can help.

We appreciate you!

Pastors Gary and Glen