



HOME GROUPS

“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” (Isa 61:3)

We have been developing our vision of Home Groups for the last year, with the plan to begin in January, 2012. Already, we have approximately ten Home Group leadership teams lined up for “Huddles” (leader preparation) this Fall. In our Sunday worship during November and December you will be hearing more about Home Groups. Here is a little preview.

WHAT ARE HOME GROUPS?



Home Groups help grow hearts through TLC with friendships in our neighborhood. The primary emphasis is spiritual growth in a community of Forcey people where hearts are learning to be like Jesus. This involves:

- **Transforming heart — spiritual growth**
- **Loving heart — reaching out to those far from God in the neighborhood**
- **Caring heart — showing support and compassion to others in the group**

Home Groups are also geographically based in local neighborhoods, to allow outreach to the neighborhood. Spiritual growth develops a heart like Jesus which also looks beyond our circle of comfort to those far from God.

Home Groups are 4-12 people unwilling to settle for anything less than life-transforming Christian community with a practical plan for spiritual growth and outreach to their neighbors.

Home Groups are part of the simple clearly defined process of growth to become like Jesus, providing the growth of “heart” within a structured group. There is a specific focus. They also provide a natural and necessary place for evangelism through the neighborhood focus—something often missing.

WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD?



A neighborhood is your sense of general proximity. You might generally think about zip code; however, we realize that there are many neighborhoods within each zip code, and that neighborhood “borders” are defined by many subjective variables. Our goal is to become geographically focused over time as more groups are started, so that the people you are growing with also share the concern and familiarity with the same neighborhood.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A HOME GROUP MEETING?



Each group may have its own unique personality, but here is a picture of what *could* happen (this is only a sample):

- The time together begins with fellowship around food.
- All ages share God’s goodness during the past week, including neighborhood concerns/ministry opportunities.
- The children will have a separate short lesson based on the lesson of the week, and then supervised play time.
- The adults will have their study time taking the passage/theme from Sunday worship and fleshing out the questions and applications, using “Taking Strides” as a possible beginning point. This will include sharing and prayer.
- All meet together for dessert and sharing at the end.

Though Home Groups are not primarily Bible Studies, understanding and applying God’s Word are essential for spiritual growth. Every Home Group study will generally follow the *Taking Strides* sermon notes provided to the whole congregation. The leader will facilitate discussion based on the recent Sunday messages. The actual direction of the discussion may vary with each group, depending on the specific needs for spiritual growth.

Soul Winning at Forcey

“**Q**nd Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men” (Mk 1:17). Soul winning is at the heart of Christian discipleship, and the Lord has promised to train His followers how to “fish for men.” As the soul winner learns his craft, he becomes more adept at identifying and pursuing potential opportunities for fruitful witness. This principle was exemplified recently while a Forcey member was conducting soul winning visitation at a local hospital.

As the Forcey member visited from room to room, he was forced to bypass one room because the door was closed, with a sign declaring “Isolation” hanging on it. He made note of the room number and decided to check back later to see what the Lord might have in store. When the Forcey member returned, he found that the door was open and that a nurse was standing in the hall outside the room. He asked and received permission from the nurse to drop off some literature with the patient. Upon entering the room, he was greeted warmly by a young man named Kevin, who was thankful for the literature and seemed eager for conversation. Taking his openness as the leading of the Lord, the Forcey member began to present the gospel to this young patient. Kevin listened very attentively and seemed to track each point that was made concerning God’s great gift of salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Within a few minutes, he bowed his head and called upon the Lord Jesus to be his Savior.

After reviewing with Kevin the assurance of his salvation in Christ, the Forcey member departed, thanking the Lord for directing him back to Kevin’s room. Reflecting later, he realized that this encounter was another training lesson from the Lord to make him a wiser and more effective “fisher of men.”

- **Ralph Zimmerman, Evangelism Team**



On November 6th, Forcey will again join with hundreds of events across America and beyond to celebrate Orphan Sunday, a day on which Christians stand for the orphan. We are called to defend the fatherless...to care for the child that has no family...to visit orphans in their distress, all in thankful response for God’s great love for us when we were lost, orphaned, and destitute.

This year at Forcey we will be highlighting the ministry of Safe Families for Children. Please read below a description of this unique Christian ministry:

When crisis strikes, many of us rely on relatives and our church family for support. But for some parents, there isn’t a safety net. Often problems such as illness, drug addiction, domestic abuse or unemployment can be debilitating, making it impossible for parents to care for their children. But now, thanks to an exciting partnership with the local church, parents facing a temporary crisis can arrange for their children to stay with a loving, Christian family while they address important and life changing issues. The outreach, called **Safe Families for Children**, is an unprecedented movement of compassion to reduce child abuse and return the church to the forefront of caring for children and modeling Christ’s love. Safe Families for Children is an opportunity for volunteers to have a powerful impact in the lives of others while practicing biblical hospi-

tality and extending the love of Christ to people in need — all from their own home!

Parents experiencing a temporary crisis can arrange for their children (newborn - 16 years old) to stay with Safe Families volunteers while they address the issues that led to the instability in their lives. Safe Families volunteers are supervised by their area church, which in turn is supported by professional child care specialists. Children are matched with families in their own community whenever possible, and placements average from one day to three months. During that time, Safe Families caseworkers are available to provide volunteers with support and answer any questions they might have.

Volunteers are needed to open their homes to children whose parents are

experiencing a short-term emergency, such as hospitalization, or a longer-term crisis, such as drug abuse or homelessness. But there are also other opportunities for volunteers to reach out to struggling families for example: offering friendship and compassion, donating resources, or professional services (i.e. hairdressers) etc.

Designed to extend and strengthen the community safety net for at-risk families, Safe Families is a positive alternative to the state child welfare system, allowing parents to work out their problems without having to worry about losing custody of their children. The program’s goal is to reunite children with their biological parent in a home that is more stable and healthy, in part because of the contribution of the Safe Families intervention. Biological parents

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One of our core values at FCS is that we make a commitment to maintain academic excellence and to maximize every student's potential. As such, it was encouraging to get so much positive feedback at our inaugural Christian High School Expo last month. Four local Christian high schools eagerly participated in the event in hopes of wooing our students and their parents. One local Christian High School is offering all our graduates a \$1,000 scholarship to attend their school. At the event, one of our 8th grade parents reminded me that another area high school recommended our middle school to them based on how much they like our graduates at their school. Meanwhile, we have heard very encouraging reports from both Springbrook High and Paint Branch High about our alumni. A parent of one of last year's graduates remarked, "Our family is very thankful that our children were able to go to FCS. We really like the desire to provide an excellent Christ-centered education. The teachers and administration have always been loving and kind to our children and diligently directed them to Christ." Another parent explained, "We liked the freedom and encouragement of talking about Jesus, especially coming from a public school where there is none. We also liked the academic rigor of math, history, language arts, and Spanish."

This kind of feedback encourages us that we are being true to our core values. It also reminds me that we don't want to keep what God is doing here a secret. So, please spread the word about FCS in the community. We have two open houses scheduled this winter. The first is on Thursday, December 8. The second is on Tuesday, January 24. Both start at 7:30 p.m. They are great opportunities for prospective parents to learn about how a Christian school can promote both academic excellence and strong spiritual formation.

- Rev. Zeke Wharton, FCS Administrator



Next spring Forcey will be hosting Perspectives on the World Christian Movement, the discipleship and educational ministry of the US Center for World Mission. Perspectives has influenced the lives of over 100,000 alumni worldwide, now is your chance to become one of them! The course has 15 inspirational lessons, taught by a different instructor expert in cross cultural ministry each week. As you are exposed to powerful insights and biblical principles you will be in awe of the magnitude of God's work around the world. The weekly readings and assignments will help you dive deeply into the unfolding story of God's purpose for His people.

Perspectives will meet every Tuesday evening at Forcey from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$290 for certificate, and \$575 for credit. There are discounts available for early registration and couples. For more details about Perspectives, or to register online, go to the website www.perspectives.org. If you have any questions please contact the class coordinator Mark Heazlit at mark-heazlit@gmail.com.



Pre-diabetes is a condition that occurs when blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be called diabetes. About 80 million in the United States have pre-diabetes, and 9 out of 10 **don't know** that they have it. The good news is that you can delay or reverse the development of type 11 diabetes with weight loss and other lifestyle changes.

If pre-diabetes is ignored, you are likely to develop type 2 diabetes and experience symptoms such as unusual thirst, a frequent desire to urinate, blurred vision, or a feeling of being tired most of the time.

Most people with pre-diabetes have no symptoms---they feel fine. If you are overweight and inactive, have a family history of diabetes, high blood pressure, a history of gestational diabetes, low HDL cholesterol and high triglycerides, it would be a good idea to check with your doctor. (Recent research has shown that long term damage to the heart and circulatory system is already occurring with pre-diabetes). He/she can either use the fasting plasma glucose (FPG) test or an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) to detect pre-diabetes. Both require a person to fast overnight. In the FPG test, a person's blood glucose is measured first thing in the morning before eating. In the OGTT, a person's blood glucose is checked after fasting and again 2 hours after drinking a glucose-rich drink.

According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease, if you have pre-diabetes, you can do something about it. If you are overweight, losing weight (at least 5-10 percent of your current weight) can prevent or delay, or even reverse pre-diabetes. You can lose weight by cutting down on the amount of calories and fat you consume, and exercise at least 30 minutes a day/5 days a week. Type 11 diabetes, if untreated, has serious complications which include strokes, heart disease and kidney failure.

- Joy Wright for the Health Ministry Team



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In addition, group leaders will be in contact with the pastoral staff to evaluate the needs of people. Additional resources or studies may be suggested for a particular group, or it may be decided that the entire church needs to focus in a different area for a season. However, groups will be shepherded in the selection of the study rather than left to choose their own direction, so that we can keep a clear and intentional movement toward spiritual growth as an entire Body.

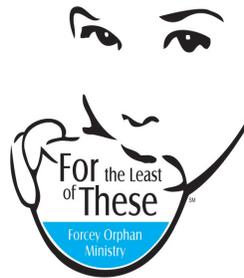
Home Groups are a place where individuals at Forcey are able to grow to be more like Christ, especially focusing on the "heart" character of Jesus. They provide a place for individuals and families in close proximity to share fellowship and spiritual growth. With a common neighborhood location, they also provide an opportunity for outreach by the entire group of believers, rather than a sense of isolation in the neighborhood. They allow others in the neighborhood a chance to see believers in action together (Acts 2:43-47).

- **Pastor Phil Powers**

Dear Forcey Family,

While recuperating this summer from hip surgery, I was most grateful for the good wishes, prayers, cards, and visits from our Forcey family and friends. Our heavenly Father blessed us through you, so Marian & I are thankful to Him & to you.

In Christ ,
Chuck Hunsberger



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maintain custody during the placement and are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's lives, as well as develop a relationship with the volunteer family. Safe Families caseworkers keep in close contact with the parents in planning for a healthy reunification of the family.

Please join us for one of the special presentations during 1st & 2nd service on November 6th to thankfully respond to God's heart for the orphan, and to learn about opportunities to help transform lives – including maybe our own.

November Calendar Highlights

- FCS Book Fair - Oct. 31 - Nov. 4 (contact school about hours)
- Safe Families For Children - Nov. 6 (1st & 2nd worship service)
- Genesis & the Authority of the Word of God Nov. 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- FCS 16th Annual Bake Sale & Craft Show - Nov. 19 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Common Bond (Teen's Ministry) - Sunday @ 6:00 p.m. (weekly)
- SAM Bible Study (1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m.)
- ESL - Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. (weekly)
- Weekly Prayer Group - Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
- SIS Prayer - Saturday @ 7:00 a.m. (weekly)

FORCEY BIBLE CHURCH PASTORAL STAFF

Philip Powers, Senior Pastor

Gerard Schneider, Associate Pastor for Counseling & Family Ministries

Ronald Jones, Associate Pastor for Christian Education

Lonnie Harris, Associate Pastor of Singles Ministries

Chris Marchand, Associate Pastor for Teens

John Itzel, Minister of Music and Worship

Art Kennedy, Minister of Arts and Worship