

# Life GROUPS

monthly newsletter

## Leader Training

JULY 2011

### Clarity about Spiritual Maturity:

As Life Group leaders, we ask ourselves, *what is it that we want people to do? And HOW are people going to become what we want them to become?*

There's no such thing as an assembly line for spiritual growth ending with us in a package stamped by inspector #9 as "spiritually formed." Maturity in Christ isn't dependent upon a regimen of classes, seminars, and prescribed activities. A person hasn't ARRIVED just because some list of spiritual formation is complete.

Truth is, there just isn't a one size fits all track to spiritual growth – no packaged curriculum, six week series or class is the ultimate answer to spiritual maturity. These things are GOOD but they aren't ALL it takes. But if these things aren't THE answer to the questions, what is? What is it that we want people to do and how do we get them to become what we want them to become?

It seems Jesus' words in Matthew 22 give the clearest answer: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments,"<sup>23</sup>

Jesus says that Loving God and Loving People is what it comes down to. All the activity and instruction of God can be summed up in these two things. And by the way, this isn't just a one-time-love-in-the-moment kind of thing. It's love for all time, continually expressed. **Wow. Continually expressing love for God and for People.** Can I do that? This might just imply that spiritual growth is a process. Maturity is on-going growth in our love for GOD and our love for PEOPLE. Our love is further expressed in how we SERVE THE WORLD – that's more maturity!

So leaders, perhaps it's this simple: **show** how you love God and **show** how you love People – your own group members. **Show** how to serve the world. Pursue your own relationship with HIM and pursue relationship with THEM. It doesn't just happen- spend time with THEM, encourage THEM and support THEM. Model what it looks like to be Jesus to your members and they will learn what it is to be Jesus to others.

Yay for spiritual maturity!

Blessings,  
Elaine

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### New Life Groups:

**Singles:** Rick Hardesty is starting a new Life Group for singles on Thursday nights at 6:30pm in the Lobby Classroom 3.

**Married:** Ed & Cheri Pamer are starting a new class in September called "Love & Respect". This class will be at 9:20am on Sundays in the Orchestra room.

**Women:** Chris Duncan is starting a morning prayer group that will meet on Mondays from 6-7am at the Eastlake Starbucks located on the Sammamish Plateau.

### Curriculum:

Were you aware of hidden curriculum in your professional, ministry or personal life? It's there and we need to be aware. Read John Ortberg's [Hidden Curriculum](#). This is a great article to share and discuss with members of your life group. This is outstanding leadership training! Enjoy.

On our shelves and recommended for FALL:  
**Andy Stanley's -**

- [Twisted Truth](#) (out until Sept)
- [Discovering God's Will](#)
- [Five things God uses to Grow your Faith.](#)

**NEW: ORPHANOLOGY Awakening to Gospel Centered Adoption and Orphan Care.**

This study details practical ways to get involved - assisting adoptive parents in realistic fashion; raising awareness of the crisis in orphan and foster care; hosting orphans for the summer; participating in your church orphan care ministry and more. This book will WAKE you up and really get your group thinking. RECOMMENDED.

# For Your Information:

Route 66 Something about a road trip inspires summer – or is it, something about summer inspires a road trip? I can't be sure, but I DO know that Route 66 starts **Sunday, 7/17**. Pastor Mike leads us on a road trip through the Bible from beginning to end. You won't want to miss a single week. Buckle up & 'bringvite' some friends! 7-weeks of GREAT Bible teaching.

Bible4Dummies We think our summer series will inspire some good conversation. So we are offering up a 6-week Sunday morning group that helps with Bible basics. What the name of this class really means is that there are no dumb questions about the Bible – so come alone or bring a group and get reacquainted with your Bible. Starts: **Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 9:20am – OCC Lobby Classroom 3** .

Luau hosted by Babes4Christ If you are a young adult or know a young adult (18-29) be sure to connect them with the group email [Babes4Christ@gmail.com](mailto:Babes4Christ@gmail.com). "Babes" are hosting this fun event and are happy to have other groups pitch in with getting the word out. THIS will be a fun time! Date: **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 1PM – OCC front lawn**

NEW Spanish ALPHA Hola!! This life changing course is led by Luz Diaz and facilitated by other friendly Spanish speaking OCC members and attendees. Go to [www.occ.org / groups/ classes/ALPHA](http://www.occ.org/groups/classes/ALPHA) for more information. Invite your Spanish speaking friends. Lunch is included. Starts: **Sunday, August 21 1-3pm – OCC Room 118**

NEW LIFE GROUP Leader TRAINING – Who in your group is ready to step into leadership? My mother always said, " Leaders don't just grow on trees you know!" and moms are always right. We NEED new leaders and NEW leaders come from YOUR life groups. That's right. The principal of multiplication (is really complicated) but to boil it down for you – you start with what you have, divide it and watch it grow into more. There you have it. Send your potential leaders my way: **July 31<sup>st</sup> 9am OR August 21<sup>st</sup> 11am in A275 (Admin. Training Room located 2nd floor east end)**

LET'S CONNECT September 29<sup>th</sup> – ALL LEADERS should be in attendance to add people to their group or to help new groups on this evening. This is the #1 way that people find connections to Life Groups at OCC. It's a fun evening of getting to meet others. Leaders arrive at 6:15pm. **Lobby areas just outside of the main auditorium.**

CENTRAL Lounge You can become a Central Loung'er' (like me!) by joining me each Sunday at the Central Lounge counter. You'll meet the nicest people on Earth. I'm not lying! I probably met you right there on your first day at OCC. We get loads of questions about life groups: "where are life groups? How can I join a life group? Is there a life group for moms? Are there life groups for single people? I'm new here, how can I get to know people?" If you are a connector and you like meeting people (and you DO because you are a life group leader!) join me for just 15 minutes after services on Sunday morning. RSVP the dates you'd like to show up. [elainem@occ.org](mailto:elainem@occ.org).

Childcare on Life Group Night? - Problem solved! Seriously. Click [here](#) for more info!

## Technology:

Hey, did you know that you can have a **private Face Book** page for your group – or for multiple groups? We have existing life groups who've created PRIVATE pages that they share only with one another – this is a great way to share group related photos and information. Whenever someone posts, you can receive the info immediately on your smart phone. See, you can stay completely connected with your group! Wow!

Look out, "The BLOG is coming, the BLOG is coming" That's right – in case you haven't heard enough, we plan to give you even **more** details and info in our new life group blog coming in September. You'll read about life group stories, highlighted OCC members, and relevant special information. You'll be invited to submit postings as well!

You-tube groups: [The Shallow Group Experience](#) - okay, not really 'technology' in the strictest sense, but take a look at this FUNNY how-not-to-do-life-groups clip. (link)

Text Marketing. Which of YOU texts 12K words per month or more? I know you are out there – and you need to text me ASAP about this opportunity. Okay, you can reply to [lifegroups@occ.org](mailto:lifegroups@occ.org) if you think you might have fun with text marketing for life groups.

Life Group [FAQS](#) on-line.