

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,"²³

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!

CONTACT us at:
Elainem@occ.org
Karriew@occ.org

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.

Calendar:

Let's Connect - Sept. 29th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Volunteer:

Central Lounge - We need LG Leaders to spend some time with us at the Central Lounge on Sunday mornings! We love to introduce our FANTASTIC Leaders to all the people who stop by to chat about Life Groups! Contact us at Lifegroups@occ.org.