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Mark Your Calendar
Gateway Sermon-Based Study (for all Life Groups) - September 7 to October 26, 2014 (Nehemiah)

Winter Team Building - Saturday, January 10, 2015, 8:00-10:30 a.m.

Pictures
So, here is your assignment this month: Take a few photos of your Life Group serving or socializing together. Post one on your Church Teams profile and email a couple of them to me. I am working on a Life Group collage for the Gate newsletter and the Gateway website. Thanks!! -Mike Barnhart (MBarnhart@gatewayepc.org).

NEW-Online Spiritual Gifts Assessment
Are you interested in discovering just how God may have wired you, spiritually speaking? If so, then this great tool will definitely assist in the discovery process. I am pleased to announce the release of a brand new Spiritual Gifts Assessment, which was unveiled in conjunction with Gateway’s new website! It is more user-friendly, takes less time to complete and includes additional information you can download, along with your results.

Simply access www.gatewayepc.org, click on ‘Serve’ then scroll down to a ‘Take Assessment’ button. You may also click here to be taken directly to the Assessment.

Church Teams—Update
Life Group leaders, you will be receiving an e-mail in the next couple weeks regarding the launch of Church Teams on Gateway’s website. This will allow those interested in connecting with a Life Group to browse a list of groups and e-mail you directly with any questions. The hope is that this additional way of connecting people to Life Groups will speed up the connection process and empower new people to see, for themselves, the groups available.
Connecting to Grow: Studying the Bible
Mike Barnhart, Life Group Director

As Christ-followers, we know we are supposed to read the Bible. After all, it is God's Word—His primary way of communicating with us. But, have you ever been taught how to read the Bible in a way that you can glean its truths for everyday life? If you haven’t, you’re not alone. Most of us do not know how to read, study, and apply the Bible ourselves, without a professional pastor or a published commentary first offering their perspectives. It is imperative that we—especially as Life Group leaders—know how to understand what the Bible says. Below is a common and simple 3-stage approach to studying the Bible:

1. **Observe** - The first stage is observation. Observation answers the question, *What do I see?* In this step, we play the role of a detective by asking basic questions such as: who, when, where, and what? All the details are important. Here are a few observation questions:
   • Who are the characters listed in the passage?
   • When did the recorded events take place?
   • What is the setting?
   • What do we know about the characters, events, and setting?

2. **Interpret** - After making detailed observations about a biblical text, it is imperative that we interpret. Interpretation answers the question, *What does it mean?* Here are a few questions to ask in the interpretation stage:
   • Why do certain events occur in a particular order?
   • What is the importance of numerical details?
   • How did God work in this situation?
   • What is God’s purpose for doing what He did?

3. **Apply** - Finally, we can make applications from the Bible. The application stage answers the question, *How does it work?* This is the stage we have all been waiting for because it helps us to understand how biblical commands, promises, and truths pertain to and affect the world in which we live. We begin to understand these applications when we ask questions like:
   • What is this group of verses saying to me and others around me?
   • How do these verses point to Jesus, the gospel, or grace?
   • How do I utilize these truths in everyday life?
   • What does this text promise?
   • What does this passage command of me?

Although following these three stages of Bible study—observe, interpret, apply—may seem simple, it does take practice. As you prepare for Life Group this week, try using this model of Bible study. Ask God to help you observe, interpret, and apply His Word to your life and the lives of those in your Life Group.

For further resources about studying the Bible, check out Fee and Stuart's *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*, or Hendricks' *Living By the Book*. 
Opportunities to Serve

**Mission Possible** is in need of volunteers for the 2014 Run4Haiti. Jobs include: Registration tables, guides on the race course, timing/finish-line help, food table, and clean-up. The race is on Nov. 15th at the First Presbyterian Church in Findlay Ohio and will begin at 9am - volunteers will need to arrive earlier. Contact Tracy Rath if you are interested in helping - TracyRath@OurMissionIsPossible.org or 419-957-3268.

**Construction Crew Meals** – Provide a Thursday lunch to on-site construction personnel, as a group. For more information, contact Laura Fagan: (419) 348-8425 or laura_fagan@yahoo.com

**Chair Ministry** - Pre-service setup/Post-service teardown of worship center chairs on Sundays and special services if necessary. For more information, contact Terry Jolliff: jolliff56@aol.com

**Greeter** – Warmly greet and assist every person, especially first-time visitors to Gateway. For more information, contact Kevin Grubinski: kgrubinski@gatewayepc.org

**Usher** – Joyfully shepherd attendees, assist with offering and address in-service needs. For more information, contact Kevin Grubinski: kgrubinski@gatewayepc.org

**Parking Lot Attendant** – Ensure safe traffic flow and convenient parking for those attending services. For more information, contact Josh Kurtz: jnkurtz28@yahoo.com

**Café Server** – Facilitate, serve and maintain snacks and beverages on-site, Sunday morning. For more information, contact Tracy Long: tracyrl@fairpoint.net

**Nursery Caregiver** – Provide safe, enjoyable and secure environment for our many infants and toddlers. For more information, contact Lisa Towell: stowell@woh.rr.com

**Facilities Event Assistants** - The facilities area is looking for 2-3 key volunteers interested in a unique opportunity. Those interested would serve as building and event-related on-site support, during Gateway programs or events (primarily evenings, weekends and special events). For more information, contact Doug Sanderson: dsanderson@gatewayepc.org

**Hospitality Team-Meal Preparation** – Prepare and deliver meals for those in the Gateway family in need, due to new babies, illness or recuperation. For more information, contact Matt Buttermore: mbuttermore@marathonpetroleum.com

**College Ministry** – Many varied areas; a passion for working with college students is essential. For more information, contact Bill Corbin: bcorbin@gatewayepc.org

**Landscaping Maintenance** – Maintain landscaped areas around church grounds-weeding, trimming, watering, planting, etc.-as part of a seasonal team. For more information, contact Chad Hepp: cehhepp@yahoo.com
Joshua’s Men

Joshua’s Men is meant to equip and train men to lead families and ministries in the community. It is a two-year commitment with one year of study along with practical application and another year of theology. In this group, you will participate in study and discussion while developing relationships with other men in order to cultivate spiritual growth and accountability. In addition, members will develop a base of sound theology in the church.

Joshua’s Men 2015 Information Meeting Dates: (TBD, probably October)

Requirements of men joining Joshua’s Men:

• A member of Gateway Church or actively working towards becoming a member.
• Actively involved in an existing Gateway Life Group or currently seeking to get into a Life Group.
• Actively serving at Gateway Church.

Summary of the Commitments:

• Attend one Saturday morning per month, 7:00-10:00 a.m. for a group meeting.
• Kick-off meeting at the church, Saturday morning, January 2015 (TBD).
• Willingness to host one of the monthly meetings in 2015.
• Purchase the 7 required books.
• Attendance at the Joshua’s Men’s retreat – Weekend in April or May 2015 (Friday pm / Saturday). Cost is approximately $70.
• Time each month to read the book and complete the application / discussion questions and work on memory verses.

Men, if you have any questions about this, please contact Lyn Loewen at 419.957.4049 or email wild4the1@hotmail.com (Joshua’s Men email).

Thank YOU for serving Christ as Life Group leaders!