

We Were Not Created to Do Life Alone

In the book of Acts, the Bible tells us we need to be in relationships for our personal and spiritual growth. As Paul and the early Christians taught and received teaching from house to house, we too must reach out beyond Sunday morning to connect with one another in each other's homes, neighbourhood churches, coffee shops, anywhere comfortable that works for you.

Why did they do this? Because they needed to be connected to one another in their fragmented and persecuted world. We desperately need to be connected too! They needed a way and place to do as Christ modeled and taught them, the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches so that God's Kingdom will be built and glorified.

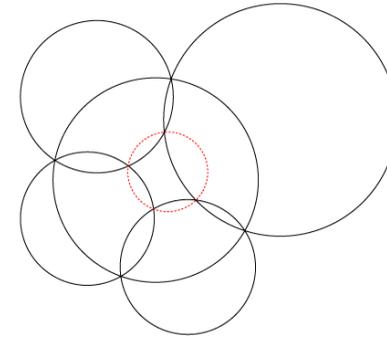
Are you thinking this is great, but not for me? Perhaps like a lot of people, you are struggling to balance a very busy life. A plate that is filled with too many demands on your time. With work and family obligations, plus you may already be volunteering in the church or community; the effort to juggle family, work, school, and church, leaves you feeling you do not have a free minute in your week to spare. It's for those exact reasons why **YOU** need to be in a small group!

Why? Because, it is God's plan for you to be in quality relationships with Him and with others within the confines of a loving community, which is also the definition of "Church." Because, we all need a place to belong and work through the issues of life. Because, we need to be loved and give our love. As a Christian, our primary goal is to know and grow in Christ.

How can this be accomplished when all aspects of our life are riddled with stress? By learning spiritual disciplines and receiving the support and encouragement that small groups offer. We need a place to grow in relationship with Jesus and one of the best ways is in community with people who love and care for you.

How to Connect

Fill out the colourful Connection Card located on your seat or at the display tables set out today. Fill in your name, email and phone number and what group(s) you are interested in joining. Please leave them with the small group leader or drop them off in the clear box by the entrance. Or, email info@saintjohnvineyard.ca if you have any questions or would like to register for any small group.



Saint John Vineyard Circles of Friends

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“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” Acts 20:20

Here Are Some Reasons to Consider Home Groups

The most important way to get plugged into the life of Saint John Vineyard is to become involved in a small group. These are places to cultivate both a relationship with God and friendships with others.

- Small groups are the perfect place to practice our call to be disciplined and to make disciples.
- Small groups are the perfect place for Spiritual growth to make His truth come to life in our lives (Matt. 28:18-20).
- Small groups help us handle stress, crisis, changes and the pressures of life better.
- Small groups are the perfect place to be in study of His Word and to be in prayer, we do this individually but we are also to do it in community.
- Small groups are the perfect place to welcome your friends into the church and introduce them to Christ.
- Small groups are the perfect place to understand how to share Christ with loved ones and coworkers.



Circles Launching – Fall 2017

Choose from a variety of small groups
and give it a whirl!

CREATED FOR CONNECTION (MARRIAGE WORKSHOP)

Are you looking to enrich a healthy marriage, revitalize a tired one or rescue one gone awry? Do you yearn to grow closer to God, and to further incorporate Him & His teachings into your marriage? We all want a lifetime of love, support, & faith. Regardless of how long we have been married, we sometimes need a little help. That is what the CREATED FOR CONNECTION workshop is designed for. This workshop presents, a program that will help you as a couple learn to create a stronger, more secure relationship not only between you & your spouse, but between you & God. You will have an opportunity to work on the emotional underpinnings of your marriage so you can both develop or reestablish safe emotional connection.

Filled with Bible verses, inspiring real-life stories, & guidance, CREATED FOR CONNECTION will help you towards a lifetime of love. Each couple's privacy is respected as there is no requirement to disclose anything about your relationship to anyone else. The workshop will be held **Jan 19-21** at Stone Church (87 Carleton Street). The sessions will be Fri 7-9 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm and Sun 3-5 pm. Cost of the workshop is \$150.00 per couple. Need-based bursaries may be available. A **maximum of twelve couples** will be able to attend. Sign up early to reserve a place. For enquires or registration, contact Carolyn Westin LCT at hopewell@bellaliant.net **Host: John Paul and Carolyn Westin**

NOON-HOUR BIBLE STUDY - EVERY TUESDAY @ SJV

Bring your lunch, grab a coffee when you arrive & gather with us for our weekly Bible study “**See Through the Scriptures.**” This study makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, putting everything in clear context. This course will be offered at Saint John Vineyard starting Tues Sept. 26th at 12:15-1:00pm, ending on Tues Dec. 19. **Host: Jonathan Springthorpe**

RECOVERY WORKSHOP

This workshop is held **weekly starting Thursday, Sept. 14 from 7:00 -8:30pm** for 8 weeks, for those in recovery & those helping people in recovery. It is an introduction to the spiritual nature of recovery. Participants need a trusted pen & paper and a copy of "The Big Book". To register or to ask questions call Reed Fleming at 721 1788 or email reed.fleming@thresholdministries.ca

PRAISE & PROJECTS NEEDLEWORK

Meeting once a month (dates may vary) **from 6:30-8pm**. All forms of needlework welcome and you can work on your own projects or begin some for charity donations. For more info email kathrynhanson@hotmail.com. **Hosts: Barb Perry and Kathryn Hanson**

LIVING LIKE JESUS

Monday evenings 7:30-8:30 pm at Saint John Vineyard. October 16, 23, 30 November 6, 13, 20, 27 December 4, 11. All welcome as we look at how we practice the things Jesus practiced, doing the same spiritual exercises he did, so that we can also live in a “God-bathed world” as he did. (Though we will be referring to the book *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, and group members are welcome to purchase this on their own, it is not necessary to have the book for you to join this group). **Hosts: Tyler Johnston and John Paul Westin**

MONTHLY MOVIE NIGHT

In the next four months, we will be trying something new. We will be looking at secular films with an eye on the Gospel of Jesus. We will have a half hour discussion following each of these movies on what glimpses of the Gospel are present in each. These will be good nights to bring a friend who is searching for Jesus. Popcorn will be provided.

The Lord of the Rings - Thursday Oct. 12, 6:30pm
The Horse Whisperer - Thursday Nov. 09, 6:30pm
Spiderman -Thursday Dec. 14, 6:30pm

THURSDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY: A VISIT WITH THE GOOD DOCTOR

The author Luke wrote a gospel, which was part one of his work. Luke was himself a physician (Colossians 4:14) and had special insight into the Gentile (non- Jewish) world, so that he could communicate clearly the life of the Jewish Messiah Jesus to those who were not raised as Jews. Our study “A Visit with the Good Doctor” will be held at **Stone Church, 87 Carleton St. Thursdays 12:15-1:00 pm**. Bring a lunch and a friend. **Leader: John Paul Westin**

STAY TUNED...MORE GROUPS STARTING SOON!