



Small Group Ministry Spiritual Life Brochure

- There are activities and circumstances that trigger spiritual growth
- Small Groups offer activities and experiences that move people who become disciples
- See how.....

Look for Small Group information on the GBPC web site under the Adult Ministries heading

- *Sign up and join a Small Group*
- *Small Groups welcoming new members listed*
- *Lead a new Small Group*



A New Way to View Your Journey!

**Where are you?
Is this where you want to be?
What's next for you?
How can Small Groups help?**

Small Groups can offer a workable plan and the opportunity, specific steps to help you answer all of these questions.

We must all take steps to grow closer to Christ, but remember, He's the one who accomplishes the changes. Our task is to align ourselves with God's will and purposes and allow the Holy Spirit to do the work.

*Want to be challenged to grow spiritually?
Then take the next step, wherever you are!*



Questions? Contact Kristie Matheson, Small Group Coordinator, 547-4706 or...

Where Are You?

Assess yourself...

In the spiritual journey, I'm a Stage ____

The Reveal Survey helped GBPC identify four spiritual stages or segments based on how important Christ is in your life. The first step in spiritual growth is to honestly assess yourself—

Stage 1—Exploring Christ: Do you believe in God, but are not sure about Christ and His role in your life? Faith does not play a significant role in your day-to-day life. Approximately 17% of the survey respondents share this stage. If you place yourself here, turn to page 5 for Small Group opportunities and suggestions.

Stage 2—Growing in Christ: Do you believe in Jesus? Are you working on what it means to get to know him? Do you trust Christ with your eternity, but are just beginning to learn what it means to be in a relationship with Him? This is the largest percentage, 45%, of the GBPC survey respondents. If you find yourself responding , “yes” to these questions, turn to page 6 for the next steps!

Stage 3—Close to Christ: Do you feel close to Christ? Do you depend on Him daily for help and guidance for issues you face? DAILY is the key word in this stage of spiritual growth. About a quarter, 25%, of GBPC respondents place themselves here. If you're ready to grow with others who feel they are in this stage, turn to page 7.

Stage 4—Christ-Centered: Is your relationship with Jesus the most important relationship in your life? Does this relationship guide everything you do? The people in this group, 13% of respondents, see their lives as fully surrendered to Jesus, subordinating everything to His will and His desires. Empowering opportunities available can be found on page 8.

Email kristiem@gbpres.org kristiem@gbpres.org kristiem@gbpres.org

Is This Where You Want To Be?

Whether we know it or not, we want to journey toward God. That's how He made us. But how does spiritual growth happen?

GBPC Small Groups help you meet the challenge to take the next steps in your spiritual lives. Groups focus on Bible study (WORD) and Prayer together (PRAYER), the sharing of spiritual friendships (SHARE) and service projects (SERVICE) making movement between stages easier, less threatening, and fun!

Small Groups serve as a tool that make change happen. Actively engaging in Small Group life helps members focus and helps direct movement toward God using these principles:

**GBPC Small Groups adhere to the basic principles of
WORD/SHARE/PRAYER/SERVE**



What's Next For You?

The importance of each principle varies, depending on the member's stage. The level of study, the amount of time spent in fellowship, the depth of prayer, and the type of service chosen by the group, should reflect the stage of it's members.

Your self-assessment will help you and your group determine what to study and where to serve. Here is your offer to grow closer to Christ and to other Christians on a journey, *just like you*.

Complete a Small Group interest card, located in the Narthex any Sunday or...

How Can Small Groups Help?

Stage 1 Exploring Christ

A foundational study of the Bible (WORD) and making spiritual friendships (SHARE) which help you grow spiritually are the two most important principles of small group life at this stage.

Attending church services every weekend is of the utmost importance as the journey begins. Groups with Explorers should pray specifically for guidance and choose Bible studies that reflect on Scripture.

Suggested resources—

Discipleship Bible NRSV Version

Concise Concordance to the NRSV,

GBPC Staff recommended Bible Dictionary, Handbook, Commentary

The Bible From Scratch by Don Griggs

An overview of the Old and New Testaments in two volumes

Life Guide Bible Study—Spiritual Gifts by R. Paul Stevens

Recognize your spiritual gifts, consider how to use these gifts

Living Faith by N.T. Wright

History & teaching of the church, what Christians believe and why

Suggested Activities -

-Join a Small Group ! Many new Groups form in September, don't delay. Let us know they type of group you are interested in forming.

-Many ministry opportunities are available from the worship and music committee—audiovisual, dance, sign language, flower guild & more!

-Participate in the monthly book discussions, held the 4th Thurs.

-Schedule dinners with the group, quarterly or between studies.

-Attend church activities together as a group— Fall Kick Off, Small Group Sunday and the \$100 Challenge are all scheduled this fall.

WORD - FOUNDATIONAL

SHARE – MAKE SPIRITUAL FRIENDS

PRAYER – SPECIFICALLY TO SEEK GUIDANCE

SERVE– IN A CHURCH MINISTRY

Stop by the Welcome Desk, in the church Lobby and talk to a volunteer!

Stage 2 Growing in Christ

A more in-depth study of the Bible (WORD), a focus on spiritual topics and the habit of daily prayer (PRAYER) which includes confession and listening for God are the two most important principles of Small Group life at this stage.

Greater expressions of increasing faith will become evident as the relationship with Christ becomes personal during this stage. Within this movement, service in the church includes leadership and organization. Daily Bible study and prayer practices should become the norm and Small Groups should select studies that include daily homework to help form habits.

Suggested resources—

Experiencing God by Henry and Richard Blackaby

Learn to know God intimately and join Him in his work

Beth Moore studies for women

Multiple titles available in DVD format

Disciple Essentials by Greg Ogden

Essential Christian teaching and knowledge to strengthen your faith

Jonah by Priscilla Shirer

What do we do when God interrupts our lives?

Suggested activities—

-Lead the congregation in scripture and responsive readings by serving as liturgist during the 9:45 service.

-Welcome others to our community by helping on the Hospitality, Welcome Center, or VIP Team.

-Serve those in need at GBPC—KIT ministry, "keeps in touch" with those members who have experienced the death of a loved one

-Teach children's SS, or KICK, lead children's choir or a youth group

-Consider attending one of several fall conference, the Small Group simulcast, Hit the Bulls Eye, & Boomstock are all coming in Oct.

WORD – SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, IN DEPTH MEANING OF SCRIPTURE

SHARE – MOVEMENT TOWARD EVANGELISM, RETREATS

PRAYER – DAILY FOR GUIDANCE/CONFESSION, LISTENING TO GOD

SERVE – WITHIN THE GBPC CONGREGATION, ADD OUTSIDE/IN NEED

Suggested resources available in the Small Group Coordinator's office, Room 220

Stage 3 Close To Christ

Bible Study (WORD) is in-depth, daily, and independent. The Small Group's focus shifts from study to service (SERVE) as the most important principle at this stage of Small Group life.

More personal responsibility for motivation and direction characterizes the self-feeders who now seek ways to serve outside of the church. Personal spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, reflection on Scripture and solitude. Although Small Group life is still important, members no longer depend on the group for spiritual growth.

Suggested resources—

Prayer by Richard Foster

Exploring the deeper places where prayer becomes not simply petition but a way of life

Companions in Christ—various studies and authors

Build spiritual practices, learn spiritual disciplines

Diving Conspiracy by Dallas Willard with John Ortberg

Power of a Whisper by Bill Hybels

Hearing God, Having the guts to respond!

God is Closer Than you Think by John Ortberg

How to have a vibrant, every moment relationship with God.

Suggested activities—

-Lead a small group of Explorers or those Growing in Christ, teach a Sunday School or Wed. Night class.

-Prison ministry is active through GBPC, where opportunities for visitation and leading Bible studies are available.

-Service & Mission committee supports 31 ministries and missions - Habitat for Humanity, A Place of New Beginnings, Young Life & more.

-Join one of the GBPC teams to Vida Joven, Nicaragua, Katrina Mission Team or Living Water for the World

WORD—SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES AND TOPICS, SOLITUDE

SHARE—EVANGELISM INCREASES BY FAITH AND AS A CATALYST

PRAYER—FREQUENT, DAILY, SOLITUDE

SERVE—TITHING, SERVE THOSE IN NEED INDEPENDENTLY

as well as information on the many opportunities GBPC offers you to serve!

Stage 4—Christ Centered

The Bible (WORD) has decisive authority over all that is said and done. Belief in a sacrificial life that is not driven by pursuit of material things (SERVE) becomes evident as does evangelism as Small Groups in this stage seek ways for members to give away their faith, life, time, and money.

Christ Centered members will love and appreciate the intimate accountability of the Small Group, but it is also okay to let go of the organized structure at some point. Powerful, informal, relational networks have developed through mentoring. High levels of evangelism are predictive of this advanced stage and serve as BOTH an effect of faith and a cause of spiritual growth.

Suggested resources—

Seeking Him by Nancy Leigh DeMoss & Tim Grissom

Experience the joy of personal revival!

Holy Discontent by Bill Hybels

Become a positive influence for change in your personal vision

Living Beyond the Sanctuary by Glenn McDonald

An invitation to become lifelong learners or Jesus.

Soul Revolution by John Burke

60-day experiment to simply turn your thoughts to God on an hourly basis

Suggested activities—

-With open hearts, Christ's call on life is evident in surrendering all aspects of life to God. During this time of spiritual generosity, attitudes about giving away time, money, faith, and life increase dramatically. Activities may or may not be church-centered. We look forward to hearing from those who follow Christ's call in various ways!

