

Note from Pastor Jeff...

Dear LifeGroup Leaders,

"In the Mix for Six" officially winds down this week with the coming of Easter. The announcements are done and the posters are coming down but the results have been very encouraging and we hope, lasting. As of right now we have launched 27 new LifeGroups and we have seen many new people plugged into a small group community. As we evaluate the final results you could help us if you would e-mail us and tell us how many new people have joined your group since the first of the year and also tell us if you are using the sermon based questions.

As we head into this next season of ministry I want to highlight some important issues...

- **1 Corinthians:** The week after Easter we will be diving into the book of 1 Corinthians as a church. I am very excited about this for a couple reasons. First – there is so much to learn from this book of the Bible. Second – if you are using the sermon based questions (and we hope you are) working through 1 Corinthians verse by verse will bring greater continuity to the questions and discussion in your LifeGroups.
- **What are you studying:** You can help us by sending Terri an e-mail telling her what material you are using in your LifeGroup. We are encouraging everyone to use the sermon based questions but if you're not, remember that all the material you use needs to be passed by me (Pastor Jeff) before you start.
- **Elder / Coaches:** I think I need to remind and clarify for you the role of your elder/ coach. Each LifeGroup has been assigned one of our church elders whose role is to assist you in any way you need. He is there to help you, to get to know you, help you problem solve and encourage you. If you have a question or an issue and feel like you need some help, your elder / coach is the first person to call. Don't feel like you're intruding or bothering them, that's why we assigned them to you. They are all experienced LifeGroup leaders who can help you. If you don't know who your coach is or how to contact them shoot Terri an e-mail and she will give you the information you need.

Please be praying for our Easter services. It is a time of year when so many people are open to attending church and are exposed to the Gospel message. Be praying for Pastor Steve as he prepares the message and pray for many visitors and many first time commitments to Christ.

For the Saints (like you) and for The Lamb,

Pastor Jeff

Thought for the month...

One thing I've seen, however, is that God could care less about how messed you are, how far you've fallen, or how "good" you've been. What He wants to know is, "How willing are you right now – in this moment... (to obey Him)?"

John Burke from his book **Soul Revolution**

Planning Ahead...

April 3	Men's Ministry Meeting—8:00 AM
April 3	Easter Services at 5:00 and 6:30 PM
April 4	Easter Services at 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 AM
April 6	Financial Peace University starts—7:00 PM
April 14	Women's Spring Bible Studies start
April 20	CH School of Ministry class: Survey of Theology starts—6:30 PM
April 22	CH School of Ministry class: Bible Study Methods starts—6:30 PM
April 24	Car Care Saturday
April 30	Women's Evening Tea—7:00 PM

For Your Information

To research or order curriculum, go to www.christianbook.com or www.amazon.com



Service Opportunities

Easter Services Parking Lot attendants: contact Pastor Matt at mattm@chccbw.org

Start and lead a **Women's Bible Study** at Everett Gospel Mission.

Car Care Saturday on April 24: Help with car maintenance or with food for workers and single moms and widows.

E-mail terrir@chccbw.org for more info

Want to read through the Bible in 2 years with your family or LifeGroup? Pick up a bookmark at the Info Center in the lobby or go to the following website courtesy of Randy Ketchem:

<http://www.ketchem.net/twoyearbible/>

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The Truth About Transformation

What it really takes to help people change their minds by Dan Lentz

Have you ever changed your mind about something? I have changed my mind more about things in the last few years than I would have ever dreamed possible.

More than Knowing

For example, when I started working at an industrial job, I had the idea that a person should not miss work for anything—even when you're sick. So for more than six years straight, I never missed a day of work because of illness. Did I get sick during that time? Yes. But I just strapped on my boots and said, "No matter, I'm going to work."

That line of thinking started to spill over into how I viewed other people. I had friends at the company who, every month or two, got sick and missed a day of work. I became convinced they had poor values, and that they were either uncommitted, lazy, or just wimpy. I knew that everyone has times when they don't feel well, but I truly believed that if a person was committed enough, he or she could still make it to work.

But then I started to change my mind.

Why? Over time, I got some information from my "wimpy" friends that helped me understand why they struggled to make it to work when certain health conditions were a problem. The information helped me to empathize with them. Still, down deep, I was doubtful that they really needed to be off work as much as they were.

But then something really caused me to change my mind: I got a chronic illness. I—the guy who thought anyone who would let illness interrupt everyday life was just wimpy—became chronically sick. And I stayed chronically sick. Low and behold, it did interrupt my everyday life. It did make work and normal activity impossible at times. That's when I got it. I changed my mind.

So, what does it take to change your mind?

Spiritual Transformation

Knowledge about something can change a person's mind, but what really tends to do the trick is knowledge coupled with a related experience. We can have a lot of information that would lead us in a direction to change our minds, but knowledge of the truth doesn't always tip us over the edge until we have a relevant experience.

True mind change, in a spiritual context, is called transformation (Romans 12:2). So when does transformation happen? Does it happen when we receive information regarding biblical truth? Sometimes. My experience has been that biblical truth is very important to the transformation process. Still, we often allow truth to change our beliefs, but our actions don't always flesh that out.

Sometimes we need to both understand and experience the truth in order for genuine transformation to take place. Real application of a truth is where life-change happens—not just talking about application, but living the application. Academic or informational Bible studies can be important within a small group, but if you're not living out or experiencing the truths of those studies together in community, your group members may not be changing their minds as much as you think.

So how can you help the process of genuine transformation? Here are some practical suggestions:

- Always allocate a significant amount of time to focus on the application of any study you are doing. At least half of any "lesson time" should focus specifically on application.
- Don't make application theoretical. In other words, share as many personal and specific examples of application as you can, including past victories and defeats. Encourage and spur one another on through those examples.
- Be intentional about planning experiences into group life—service projects, prayer walks, confession exercises, hospital visits, and so on.
- Discern specific areas where transformation is slow for your members, and plan experiences around those areas. For example, if several group members are having trouble loving people of a different ethnicity, plan a time when they can serve others of that different ethnicity.
- Draw the connection or ask questions about how God is using specific circumstances to transform your group members. Here's an example question: How is God using your current suffering to change your mind about things?
- Recognize and celebrate times when people acknowledge they have changed their mind at a deeper level about deeply held issues.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would be constantly renewing the minds of your small-group members.

Remember that changing a mind goes beyond knowledge. It requires knowing the right things and living those things, as well. Don't let your small group settle for just the first step in the process of genuine transformation.