

**SMALL GROUPS:**

Have you joined a small group yet?

We have groups meeting nearly every night of the week.

We have groups that meet practically every demographic need you could imagine.

- ❖ Looking for a group for parents, that offers childcare? A group meets here at EVC on Friday evening at 7:00PM.
- ❖ Looking for a group of Senior Citizens? We have groups that meet in homes at the Villages on Wednesday evenings.
- ❖ Looking for a group of college age students? A group meets on Sunday evening at 6:00PM here at church.
- ❖ Looking for a group for younger couples? We have groups that meet on Tuesday and on Wednesday evenings in homes.
- ❖ Looking for a group in Morgan Hill? We have a group that meets on Tuesday evening in a home in Morgan Hill.
- ❖ Looking for a men's group? We have one that meets here on Sunday morning and groups that meets off campus on Tuesday.
- ❖ Looking for a women's group? Try one of the groups on Thursday.

It is time to join a small group or start your own.

Come check out details on all the groups that are meeting.

Visit us under the canopy outside on the lawn today.

September 6, 2009

Pastor Tim Wood

Faith Lived Out  
An Introduction to James

*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 2:14*

*But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 2:18*

Three dimensions of faith

Faith Lived out

1. It shows up in my \_\_\_\_\_

2. It shows up in my \_\_\_\_\_

3. It shows up in my \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Small Group & Personal Bible Study Lesson***

*Pastor Dennis Hadley*

### ***Memory Verse: Galatians 2:20***

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

- ❖ This week in preparation for the beginning of our all church study on James, "Faith Lived Out" we want to take a moment to reflect and think about the things we value most as a church; our relationships with God, His Word, and People, and how we might build up those most important relationships in life.
- ❖ Within the next week you will begin to daily read the "Faith Lived Out" study by starting with the introduction on pages 5-7. Then each day read the daily meditation for that day starting on page 8 in preparation for your small group meeting next week.

### **1. Developing an Eternal Relationship with God**

The most important aspect of every Christian's life is a relationship with God. Once we have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is vitally important that we remain connected with Him always. Jesus said it like this in John 15:5, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

- What do you think it means to remain in Jesus?
- What would you need to do to really remain in Jesus' loving presence?

God wants your relationship with Him to be real and personal. He tells us, *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* Jeremiah 33:3.

- Why do you think God asks us to call to Him?
- Why do you think God has chosen to wait for us to call out to Him before He will reveal these great and unsearchable things?

### **2. Developing an Eternal Relationship with His Word**

Avery Willis, author of *The Disciples Cross* said, "Memorizing puts God's Word in your head. Meditating puts it in your heart."

In Joshua 1:8 God tells us to *"meditate on it (God's Word) day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it."*

The way to do that is to read the word and wrestle with the truth God has for you. As we read in Jeremiah 33:3, God will show you truth if you call out to Him. Once you discover what God is saying to you, obey and do what it says. Using a discovery method is a great way to develop and eternal relationship with God. Let's try it now.

#### ***Discovery Bible Study Exercise:***

- Write out Galatians 2:20
- Re-write Galatians 2:20 in your own words
- What do you discover about yourself in Galatians 2:20?
- What does God want you to do in response to this truth?

### **3. Developing an Eternal Relationship with People**

The final part is our relationship with people. There are essentially two groups of people God calls us into a relationship with. First are those who are followers of Jesus. I will call these people our brothers and sisters in Christ. Second are those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. I will call these people our mission field. We are called to reach out to both groups in love. Jesus said, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-35

Our love for one another must be real and our commitment must be deep. Jesus wants us to love one another so much that the world sees Him through our love for one another.

- What keeps you from loving people the way Jesus wants you to love?
- Going back to Galatians 2:20 and John 15:5 what is the promise of Christ in our lives? How might Jesus in your life help you love others the way He loves?