

# Murphy's Landing LifeGroups

## *"The Hole in Our Gospel"*

### Fall 2010 Syllabus

Welcome to your Fall 2010 *LifeGroup*! Beginning this fall, your group will meet weekly beginning the week of September 12 through the week of November 24 for a seven week *LifeGroup* series. *Please note that following this seven week series, LifeGroups will go to an every other week format, unless your group decides to do otherwise.*

This fall, you will be working from small group resources collected from the Christian Book of the Year, ***"The Hole in Our Gospel"*** by World Vision CEO Richard Stearns. Each week will include watching a DVD film clip, followed by Scripture readings and a discussion topic that will vary weekly. Additionally, on Sunday mornings at Murphy's Landing, beginning September 12th, all preaching/teaching messages will relate to the Scripture passages and topics you will be discussing that same week in your *LifeGroups*.

Finally, you will also be provided with a weekly Scripture verse(-s) that we will encourage everyone to memorize as we seek to internalize God's words in our hearts over this seven week period.

#### **Here is what Christian leaders are saying about the impact of "The Hole in Our Gospel."**

*"Richard's book urges us to think again about the opportunity to love our neighbor and comfort the afflicted. His message is timely and needed."* ~ Max Lucado

*"'The Hole in Our Gospel' reminds us that God has the power to transform the world through us..."*

~Ken Blanchard Co-author of 'The One Minute Manager and Lead Like Jesus'

*"This is much more than 'just another book' from a Christian leader. It's a message to Christendom that we all need."* ~ Dr. Tony Campolo

*"With passionate urging...Rich Stearns challenges American Christians to embrace the whole Gospel of Jesus by embracing the neediest and most vulnerable among us. After reading the moving stories, the compelling facts and figures, and Stearns' excellent application of Scripture, you will be asking yourself: 'What should I do?'"* ~ Charles Colson

*"...Stearns places his finger firmly upon a long-standing stain on the American church. For far too long, we have artificially separated personal piety from justice. No more! His prophetic voice calls us to reflection, repentance and response. We dare do no less."* ~Alec Hill, President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA

*"[This book] is a trumpet call to action...if enough people read and do it, the world will change."* ~John Ortberg, Author and Pastor

*"Rich Stearns has penned a passionate and persuasive book aimed at Christians who find themselves absorbed with their own existence, pursuing the American dream of health,*

*wealth and happiness. Rich traces his own spiritual journey from having it all, to sacrificial living on behalf of those who have nothing. Not only is Rich eloquent-he's right."* ~ Kay Warren, HIV/AIDS Initiative at Saddleback Church, California, and wife of pastor and author Rick Warren.

Below is a week by week syllabus for your group (note: day of the week will vary depending on what group you join). You will also need to add in any extra dates/events that your group decides to do.

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**Week of September 12** – Introductions, Covenants, Pay for Materials...

Lesson 1: "The Hole in My Gospel"

Verse:

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**Week of September 19**

Lesson 2: "The Hole Gets Deeper"

Verse:

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**Week of September 26**

Lesson 3: "The Hole in the World"

Verse:

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**Week of October 3**

Lesson 4: "The Hole in the American Dream"

Verse:

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**Week of October 10**

Lesson 5: "The Hole in the Church"

Verse:

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**Week of October 17**

Lesson 6: "Repairing the Hole"

Verse:

**\*Week of October 24**

**\*This week ALL LIFEGROUPS will meet at the church on Sunday evening, 10/24, from 6-8 pm!**

PLAN: Celebration & 'Spiritual Growth Assessments'

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**Week of October 31 – No Groups Meeting this Weekend**

**(FUN IDEA: Redeem Halloween as many Christians have done since the 1500's by celebrating 'Reformation Day!' Consider having a movie night where you all gather and watch "Luther," with Joseph Fiennes, available for \$11-12 at Amazon.com!)**

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**Weeks of November 7 & 14 – OPEN DATES for **service project**; Independently, each group will decide how to use this time by using the Outreach Team's contacts-check website for this!)**

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**Week of November 21<sup>st</sup> – No Groups meeting this week – HOST GATHERING #2**

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**December - OFF**

**PLAY GROUP DATE :**

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**SERVICE PROJECT DATE:**

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**NOTES:**

# HOST INFORMATION FOR SEMESTERS 2 & 3:

## DATES:

Semester 2 of LifeGroups should run from around January 9<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>. Semester 3 from April 4-May 22.

## MEETING FREQUENCY:

For semesters 2 and 3, all LifeGroups are encouraged to meet a minimum of every *other* week on a regular basis. If the group members of any given group decide that their schedules will permit meeting on a weekly basis, they are welcome to do so as long as that is satisfactory and agreed upon by all members of the group. Also, it is preferred that a group meet weekly if not all of its members are attending every other week with regularity. The better the attendance, the more effective the group will be and the better the relationships will be, even if that means meeting every other week.

## MATERIALS FOR SEMESTERS 2 & 3:

*Note: This is a CHANGE from last year!* Later this Fall, LifeGroup Hosts will be provided with a **Host Materials Guide** that will contain several small group studies to choose from for both semesters 2 and 3. Using this booklet as a guide, all Hosts will have full responsibility for choosing what study their group does for semesters 2 and 3, so be sure to keep your 'radar' on for topics/issues, etc. that will be best for the spiritual needs of your LifeGroup.

As a caution, please resist the urge to choose a topic that is interesting to you without consulting your group. While the topic may be interesting to you, if it is not *accessible* and doesn't *engage* your LifeGroup members, then interest will wane and attendance suffer. Additionally, if you choose to go the route of a more traditional book-of-the-Bible type of study (many will be recommended in the Guide), choose materials wisely by looking for a study that will direct the conversations with an accurate understanding/interpretation of the Scriptures being addressed in the study. Avoiding "So, what does this verse mean to you?" is wise and a well-written study will help its listeners understand the passage in light of context, proper interpretation, and relevant application. Finally, and this is important; consider that any study that does not use a DVD to drive each lesson may require a higher commitment from your members, especially if much reading or preparation is needed prior to your meeting. In general, studies that are 'stand-alone' lessons that are DVD driven will work best in most situations. If you feel you need assistance with this, please contact Jason or Paul and we will provide guidance as needed.

If a Host has discovered materials that they want to do that are not listed in the guide provided, such as a book or group study, Hosts are asked to submit those ideas/materials to Pastor Jason for a review process. Once the materials have been appropriately reviewed and are seen as fitting, those materials will be added to the guide for other Hosts to consider in the future.

## **Important names, phone numbers, email address & resources for you:**

Pastor of LifeGroup Ministry: Jason Williams, *pastorjasonw@gmail.com*, (cell) 317.345-7972

Outreach Team Leader:

Jerry McAfee, *jerrymcafee@gmail.com*

Our Facebook Page Title:

Under 'groups', search for "CCML LIFEGROUPS HOST PAGE"

Websites to spend some time with:

- HOST TRAINING VIDEOS: [[http://www.smallgrouptrader.com/Training\\_Modules/](http://www.smallgrouptrader.com/Training_Modules/)]
- OUR WEBSITE! [[www.yourccml.com](http://www.yourccml.com)] Go to 'Ministries' > 'LifeGroups' > 'Host Toolbox'

# HOSTS: REVIEW TIME!

What is the four-fold purpose that must be balanced in LifeGroups?



What are the responsibilities of a LifeGroup Host?

## LifeGroup Hosts: Responsibilities/Qualifications

- **Must be a born-again, committed Christian willing to use his/her time and talents in the building up of Christ's church**
- **Must be willing to be trained (have a "teachable" spirit)**
- **Have a hospitable attitude toward hosting others in their home**
- **Be able to turn on a DVD player**
- **Be able to read questions provided and keep discussions on track**

What are some things that could hinder your LifeGroup?

Remember this: *if we are NOT experiencing hindrances, we are probably doing something wrong! As long as we are passive, irrelevant and inactive we are no threat to the Enemy.* With this in mind, schedules, kid's activities/sports, personal hobbies, job issues, etc. are all factors that will come up as possible hindrances to a person participating in a LifeGroup. Consider the following statement by well-known discipleship scholar Dallas Willard:

*“A response to giving attention to personal soul care often is “I don’t have time...I have too much to do.” The truth is we don’t have time NOT to practice [soul care]. No time is more profitably spent than that used to heighten the quality of an intimate walk with God. If we think otherwise, we have been badly educated. The real question is, will we take the time to do what is necessary for an abundant life and abundant ministry, or will we try to get by without it? ...God never gives anyone too much to do. We do that to ourselves-or allow others to do it to us. Knowing Christ better...will ‘make our joy complete.’ It will bring over us a pervasive sense of well-being, no matter what is happening around us.”*

We have to expect that in a highly individualistic, fast-paced, “have-it-your-own-way” culture that many things (some valid, and some not) will get in the way of people actively making the time to participate in a LifeGroup. Some people have gone out of their way their whole lives to avoid anyone getting “too close,” so a LifeGroup may be a radical thing for them to consider. Some people have their personal priorities so out of line that they literally won’t have the time to be in a group-yet. Many of these excuses, however, will be made to avoid the real reason that many will simply not consider pursuing Biblical community a priority. That is ok. We will move ahead anyway. It is our job to continue to pray for, encourage and love all people as they progress spiritually.

### **What does it mean to live ‘Missionally’?**

“Missional” – Being missional means that we:

- ✓ We see ourselves as *being* missionaries, rather than just having a missions department. We see ourselves as missionaries right where we live/work/play.
- ✓ We see ourselves as ‘sent’ by Jesus into our communities to expand the Kingdom of Christ.
- ✓ We see ourselves not just ‘at church’ on Sundays, but ‘as the Church’ on Monday-Saturday as well, 24/7.
- ✓ We understand that we are to be in the world, but not conformed to it or in love with it.
- ✓ We serve our communities and build relationships with the people in them, rather than just seeing them as evangelistic ‘targets.’
- ✓ Participating in church activities is never seen as a substitute for living a Christ-like life and spending time building relationships with those who are apart from Christ. Sometimes we may be the front door into the church for someone vs. the door on the front of a building.

**Finally, we must always remind ourselves and our Lifegroups to practice the 'one anothers' as we are taught in Scripture, even when it's difficult:**

- Be devoted to one another (Rom. 12:10)
- Honor one another (Rom. 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Rom. 12:16, I Peter 3:8)
- Love one another (Rom. 13:8, I Thess. 4:9, I John 3:11)
- Educate one another (Rom. 14:9)
- Accept one another (Rom. 15:7)
- Instruct one another (Rom. 15:14)
- Seek to agree with one another (I Cor. 1:10)
- Keep each other accountable (I Cor. 5:3-5, 6:1-6)
- Care for one another (I Cor. 12:25)
- Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)
- Bear with one another (Eph. 4:2)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Eph. 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Eph. 5:21)
- Forgive one another (Col. 3:16)
- Teach one another (Col. 3:13)
- Admonish one another (Col. 3:16)
- Encourage one another (I Thess. 5:11)
- Warn one another (I Thess. 5:14)
- Comfort the feeble (I Thess. 5:14)
- Exhort (encourage) one another (Heb. 3:13, 10:25)
- Incite one another to good works (Heb. 10:24)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Confess sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Offer hospitality to one another (I Peter 4:9)
- Be humble toward one another (I Peter 5:5)
- Fellowship with one another (I John 1:7)

**NOTES:**