

Faith Church

mini **CHURCH**

News

Thank-You!



Thank-you for leading a Mini-Church and helping Faith Church fulfill the mission of ... "growing the connected". You are a vital part of the Mini-Church team. Thank you so much for your willingness to reach out to others, develop relationships, and help people grow in their walk with God.

We want to encourage, equip and train you at our Existing Leader Workshops that take

place three times a year. That's why we've included a magnet with this newsletter. Please stick it on your fridge to serve as a reminder of the upcoming training dates.

Thank-you too for your patience as we make adjustments to the Mini-Church Ministry. We are about 2 years into what we think will be a 5 year process for Faith Church to become a church of **Mini-Churches**, not with **Mini-Churches**. Our goal is for the majority of people who call Faith Church home to get connected in a Mini-Church.

A great way to learn more about the overall vision for Mini-Churches at Faith is the "New Leader Training". This training explains the Faith

Church vision and goals for Mini-Churches. This is a required training for all new Mini-Church Leaders (and for any current leaders who have not yet attended).

We hope you are connected with your Coach and are getting encouragement and support. If you have any needs or concerns, give us a call or email us at minichurch@faithchurchoonline.org.

Spring 2009

Upcoming Mini-Church Series

- JULY 2009, **4 WEEK WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES** STUDYING THE BEATITUDES
- **5 WEEK CHURCH WIDE HOPE SERIES**, STARTS THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 3/4

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS WILL ALL BE PART OF THIS CHURCH-WIDE ADVENTURE

Recommended Mini-Church Studies

Have you been wondering what to study? You can see a list of all materials at faithchurchonline.org under the Mini-Church leadership link. You can also view material at the Vine Bookstore at the Dyer campus. Some of our recommendations are...

Group's Bible Sense series, each study covers a different book of the Bible, each study guide also includes a DVD with entire book of the Bible to print and to watch.

Growing Up: A Lifelong Journey, this study has 8 "conversations" about growing up in Christ. Simple homework is to read and reflect on a chapter of the Bible and think about one question.

Fireproof Your Marriage, this 6 session study uses clips from the movie "Fireproof" to help couples grow strong, God-centered, lifelong marriages.

God is Closer than You Think (experiencing the presence of God) and **The Life You've Always Wanted** (spiritual disciplines for ordinary people) by John Ortberg, 6 session DVD based studies

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn, 6 DVD sessions that teaches the joy of giving in a way that causes lasting change

Upcoming Trainings/Workshops

- **EXISTING LEADER WORKSHOP**, SATURDAY, JULY 18, 9-11AM
- **HOST TRAINING**—REQUIRED FOR EVERY HOST LEADING A MINI-CHURCH FOR THE HOPE SERIES— WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 6-7 PM **OR** SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 9-10 AM
- **EXISTING LEADER WORKSHOP**, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 6:30-8:30PM

The Character of a Leader by Heather Zempel

Why do people follow you? Is it because you have a title or position? Is it because you wield some level of power? Is it because you have a magnetic personality or reputation? There are many reasons why someone might decide to follow you, but there is only one reason that will be sustainable over the long-haul: character.

At our church, we talk a lot about character and integrity because we believe the best leaders are those who lead themselves well. In *A Fish out of Water*, George Barna explains, "The word character is derived from a Greek term that refers to engraving, implying that character is the sum of the indelible marks imprinted on you which shape your thoughts and behavior. Character is your inner substance, "the content of your heart that is manifested through your behavior and values." That means everything we do plays a role in creating our character.

Every time we think something, say something, make a decision, do something or leave something undone, we are forming our character. People follow leaders of character, and they follow because the leader displays a character that they can trust. Let's look at three trust-builders: honesty, consistency of character, and fulfillment of promises.

Honesty

In Proverbs 16:30, we learn how far honesty can take us: "Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks truth." As a child, I was taught that "honesty is the best policy," and I still believe that is correct. There were times on Capitol Hill when I struggled to know how to "play" or "communicate" a situation, and I am ashamed to say that I was often surprised to find that honesty is the best choice; plain, clear-cut honesty.

A lie is a lie, and lies chip away at your integrity regardless of how white they are. But honesty goes further than truth vs. false. Honesty is also about telling the whole truth. We need to say what we mean and mean what we say. Over time, honesty will sustain us and build trust between us and those we lead. Like Jacob in Genesis 30:33, we must be people who can say, "My honesty will testify for me in the future."

Consistency of Behavior

Trust is also built when we display consistency of character. Nineteenth-century clergyman Phillip Brooks said, "Character is made in the small moments of our lives." Thinking back to my Capitol Hill days, I once worked with a person that was completely unpredictable. I never knew from one minute to the next what mood they might be in, how they might react to my proposals, and how willing they would be to work with me. It changed hourly. That type of working environment is very difficult. It's so much easier to work with people who are consistent despite their mood or circumstances. Consistency of behavior means that we are the same person in public as we are in private and that we treat people the same regardless of what they can do for us. It means that we make hard decisions and that our actions match our words.

Sometimes, we are more concerned with our reputations than with our character. Dale Carnegie: "Be more concerned about your character than your reputation, your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." Consistency of character builds a safety net for the people who follow you.

Fulfillment of Promises

Trust is built as you fulfill your promises. How often have I told someone I would pray for them when I had absolutely no intention of putting that person on my weekly prayer list? I've discovered it's much better for me to pray right there and then for the person rather than giving the appropriate Christian promise with no intention of fulfilling it. As leaders, we must be very careful in what promises we state and in what promises we imply. What commitments are we making to God, ourselves, our church, and our groups? And are we fulfilling them?

Test Yourself

We need to regularly and intentionally examine our character. The following questions have been very helpful for me when I need to give myself a character self-check. They are from John Maxwell's book, *Becoming a Person of Influence*.

1. How well do I treat people from whom I can gain nothing?
2. Am I transparent with others?
3. Do I role-play based on the person(s) I am with?
4. Am I the same person when I'm in the spotlight as I am when I'm alone?
5. Do I quickly admit wrongdoing without being pressed to do so?
6. Do I put other people ahead of my personal agenda?
7. Do I have an unchanging standard for moral decisions, or do circumstances determine my choices?
8. Do I make difficult decisions, even when they have a personal cost attached to them?
9. When I have something to say about people, do I talk to them or about them?
10. Am I accountable to at least one other person for what I think, say, and do?

As we seek to lay a solid foundation, we must ensure that our character is solid. Any crack in our integrity will render our ministry structures unstable. I'm the first to admit that I'm not there. None of us will ever arrive. It takes ongoing effort, intentionality and remaining rooted in the Scriptures. Maybe that's why I talk about it so much— it's accountability for myself to be continuously growing into a person of character.