Participants in our fall home group Bible studies will gear up for growth in their walk with Jesus. We want more people ever closer to Christ in confidence, hope and obedience. We want people knowing the peace and the power of the cross. This series will help people shift through four gears toward greater growth.

Our gatherings will be organized according to four aspects of our relationship with Jesus. These purposes serve to provide a process for shared congregational life.

Worship: live to please God
Fellowship: be connected into God’s family
Discipleship: become like Jesus
Ministry: serve others
Evangelism: share Jesus

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP:
Make sure that everyone is comfortable and knows one another. Have newcomers share what drove them to attend.

Take turns sharing memories about the most and least favorite vehicles you have ever owned.

A TIME OF WORSHIP:
For years many Americans have given into the temptation to worship their automobiles. As Christians we fear, love and trust in the God who has saved us in Jesus more than anything else! Have the group read responsively Psalm 20. Discuss why trusting in the LORD instead of “chariots” is a good idea.

Have someone lead the group in prayer. Ask for God’s blessing on your gathering and the home group ministry of the congregation.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP: Working through the gears of spiritual growth.
A recent study, Reveal, analyzed the spiritual development of over 500,000 people. The study concluded that you can identify a spiritual continuum that moves from Exploring Christ to Growing in Christ to Close to Christ to Christ-Centered. The study also determined the various factors (humanly speaking!!!) that help move people along this continuum. During the four home group sessions, we will consider four key catalysts of spiritual growth culled out by this study. Note: At the end of this session you will find some information about St. Luke’s participation in this study.

VIEW THE FIRST PORTION OF THE HOME GROUP DVD

The Reveal study found two crucial points about Bible usage. The first is that across the continuum the biggest factor in spiritual growth was regular (at least four times a week) personal Bible reading and reflection. It also found that to go from Exploring Christ to Growing in Christ, one must attain a knowledge of core Christian teaching.
The heart of tonight’s session is to read through the following list (don’t worry if time does not permit you to complete them tonight, finish them at home) of Key Bible Passages and see if you can identify core Christian teachings revealed in them. Some may have more than one.

- John 20:30-31
- 2 Timothy 3:15-16
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- Mark 12:30-31
- 1 John 1:8-10
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Proverbs 31:8-9
- Matthew 19:5-6
- Psalm 33:6-9
- Ephesians 6:12
- Matthew 6:31-33
- Matthew 16:15-18
- John 14:1-6
- John 3:14-16
- 1 Corinthians 12:3
- 1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- Mark 13:32
- Matthew 7:7-8
- Titus 3:5
- Acts 2:38
- John 20:22-23
- Matthew 18:15-18
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-25
- Matthew 28:18-20

Spend just a couple of minutes sharing what regular Bible reading plan, if any, you follow.

A TIME OF MINISTRY
On Thursday, October 28, 2010, we will hold a prayer vigil at St. Luke from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. See if each member of your group can come by the church sometime during that day and spend ½ an hour privately inside the sanctuary praying for the community, the nation and our congregation.

If your group is meeting after this date, agree on a time in the next week or two to have a “mini- prayer vigil.” Come to some agreement for each member to commit a particular amount of time. If you want to use some area of the church, please arrange that through the church office.

Remember, prayer is one of the crucial ministries of the Church!

A TIME OF EVANGELISM
All home groups are encouraged to pick some project or activity that enables the group to be interacting with the community as a witness to our hope in Christ.

If your group is meeting before October 30, 2010, we encourage your group to get involved in Trunk or Treat. You are invited individually or as a group to decorate your car(s), don a costume and come pass out candy (supply your own) to community kids from 4:00-6:00, Saturday, October 30 at the church.

If your group is meeting after that event, contact Julie Bennett at juliesrich@aol.com for other ideas.

Before You Close
Beginning October 23 our congregation will participate in the Reveal Survey to assess the spiritual development of St. Luke. We ask each of you to go on-line within two weeks after that date and take the 30-40 minute survey. More information will be given next time or in the Sunday announcements. The survey results will help us to enhance our ministry plan.

CLOSING
Thank you to all who have hosted our home groups! A great round of applause for them!

Share any needs or concerns for which you need prayer in the coming week. Close with prayer.