

Spiritual Formation Initiatives

Fall 2011 – Learning Communities

Learning Communities exist to assist, encourage and equip men and women to learn and experience the way, the truth and the life that is found in Christ.

Learning Communities are organized under the following broad categories:

- **COMMUNION MATTERS:** aimed at assisting Christ-followers in cultivating a way of life lived in communion with God.
- **TRUTH MATTERS:** aimed at assisting Christ-followers in developing a Christian mind and biblical worldview.
- **LIFE MATTERS:** aimed at equipping Christ-followers with practical wisdom and ways to follow Christ in the particularities of our lives, and to participate with Christ in His redemptive work in our world.

Fall 2011 Offerings

TRUTH MATTERS

Enter the Story: Unlocking God's Redemptive Story and our Place in it

Instructor: Haven Roy

Sunday mornings @ 10:15am. Beginning Sept 25.

Location: Hospitality Centre.

The Bible is made up of 66 books, written over thousands of years, by dozens of authors, in 3 languages, spanning many cultures. Amazingly however, together these books tell one story. Do you ever feel that, for all of your knowledge of the Bible, you don't really understand the overarching story? How it all fits together and what it all means? (i.e. you lack a biblical theology) In this Learning Community, Haven Roy will seek to help you begin to make sense of the larger story of the Bible, how we can better read it as a unified narrative, and what this means for us as God's people living out our part in the story today. Come ready to open your Bibles, wrestle with foundational questions, and have your understanding of God's story expand.

Instructor bio: Haven Roy is new to Ebenezer, having joined us just this past year. Haven is a graduate of Briercrest College with a Bachelor of

Arts in Biblical Studies. After graduation, Haven and his wife Lilee moved to Wetaskiwin, Alberta where he served as an Associate Pastor for three years. Haven and Lilee have recently returned to Canada from Chicago, Illinois, where he completed a MA in Biblical Exegesis at Wheaton College Graduate School. Haven is excited to contribute to the theological formation of others within our church community. He brings a deep love for Scripture and a passion for the church that will be appreciated by many.

How to Study (and UNDERSTAND!!) The Bible

Instructor: Trent Sommer

Time and location to be determined based on availability of participants. Starting: end of October. Ending by December 9th. A 6-week series.

We all know that reading the Bible is an essential practice in the Christian life. But how do you study it in such a way that you can UNDERSTAND what it says, and why it matters? In this hands-on Learning Community, Trent will seek to help you learn the essentials of studying the Bible, from observation to interpretation to application. By the end of this study, you will:

- 1) Have a better understanding of one book of the Bible (Amos), including historical context and its application to your life*
- 2) Have the tools required to study and understand any book of the Bible*
- 3) Know how to correctly apply the Bible's teachings to your own life*
- 4) Have a deeper awareness and appreciation of the utter richness that is found in God, and in His Word*

Instructor bio: Trent Sommer has been a part of Ebenezer for 6 years. Famous for his creative shirts and quirky sense of humor, Trent is known and appreciated more broadly for his deep devotion to God, passion for discipling, and teaching gifts. He is a graduate of YWAM's School of Biblical Studies. In his spare time, he is an engineer and budding romantic.

Skeptics Welcome – exploring the question of Jesus

Leader: Scott Anderson

Every second wednesday, 7:45pm. Begin Sept 21. Location: TBA

Do you have questions about Jesus? Questions about his life, teaching, death, resurrection, and what it all means? This learning community will be a space for the curious and skeptical, as well as new Christians, to wrestle together with the questions we all face regarding the facts and the meaning of the life of Jesus. We'll be using a study/DVD guide created by John Dickson (a Senior Research Fellow of the Department of Ancient History, Macquarie University, Sydney, and co-director of Australia's Centre for Public Christianity), entitled "Life of Jesus: Who He is and Why He Matters".

Instructor bio: Scott Anderson is the Pastor of Spiritual Formation. Which means that he cares a lot about the questions and realities that hold people back from seeking and following Jesus. That said, he is not content with easy answers. His life is shaped by a conviction articulated well by John Dickson, "if there is a God, surely we should expect his truth not only to be factually verifiable but also personally satisfying and socially relevant." He is excited to journey with others in the pursuit of real understanding and better questions.

The Apostle's Creed: a study of foundational Christian truths

Women's Study

Tuesdays: 7:30pm, beginning Sept 13th. Location: EBC, upstairs board room

What we believe matters. Because what we believe determines how we live. So, how are we to know what to believe? Down through the centuries, Christians have looked to what is known as "the Apostle's Creed" as a guide to discerning the essence of Christian beliefs. Join Carmen Kampmen in this journey through scripture, drawing on the Apostle's Creed, with the goal of transformation, not just information.

COMMUNION MATTERS

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation

Women's Study

Tuesday mornings: 9:15am, Sept 13th. Location: EBC, Hospitality Centre

Do you long for a deep, fundamental change in your life with God? Do you desire a greater intimacy with God? Do you wonder how you might truly live your life as God created you to live it?

*Picking up on the ancient Christian tradition of creating a "rule of life" that allows for regular space for the practice of the spiritual disciplines, **Sacred Rhythms** takes you more deeply into understanding seven key disciplines along with practical ideas for weaving them into everyday life. In the course of this study, you will not simply learn about these disciplines, but will begin to practice them, and explore how you might integrate them into your day-to-day life.*

LIFE MATTERS

The Mission of Motherhood: Touching Your Child's Heart for Eternity

Women's Study

*Do you long for your home to be life-giving and peaceful?
Is it your desire to pass on a legacy of righteousness to your children?
Do you struggle to balance the duties of motherhood with a loving relationship with your children?
Would you like creative ideas and direction for keeping your child's heart open to you and to the Lord?*

No calling is greater, nobler, or more fulfilling than that motherhood. Every day, as we nurture our children, mothers influence eternal destiny as no one else can. Tragically, today's culture minimizes the vital importance of a mother's role. By catching a vision of God's original design and allowing it to shape your life, you can rediscover the joy and fulfillment to be found in the strategic role to which God in all his wisdom has called you, for a purpose far greater than you can ever imagine. Discover how understanding God's purpose and design can empower you to be the mother you long to be.

Calm My Anxious Heart: a women's guide to finding contentment

Women's Study

Tuesday mornings: 9:15am, Sept 13th. Location: EBC, tba

Women worry a lot. We worry about our children, our friends, our careers, our families, our spouses—the list could go on and on. Yes, we want to be content and trust God with our worries, but it's a struggle to let go and free ourselves from the burden of anxiety. If you're tired of worrying about all the "what-ifs" in your life and want to experience the calm and contentment promised in Scripture, "Calm My Anxious Heart" is for you.
