

Sugar River United Methodist Church

SERMON OUTLINE for Sunday, September 27, 2009

Series: FACEBOOK@SugarRiverUMC ~ Social Networking
Week #1: CONNECT through Worship and Fellowship
Text: Matthew 22:37-40, 28:19-21 Pastor Gary Holmes

1. The Big Picture

The Great Commandment, Matthew 22:37-40

The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-21

2. How do we Connect? Christian Social Networking...

How Important Is Worship?

Deuteronomy 5:8, Psalm 100, Luke 4:1-13, Romans 12:1

What Is Christian Fellowship?

From belief to belong. Acts 2:41-43, Ephesians 2:19-22

3. The Story of the Woman@theWell.net, John 4

Water is Important...Thirst is a Low-Fluid Meter

What water substitutes do we use?

Spiritual Thirst...a matter of the heart

When we choose to quench our thirst without Jesus
John 7:37-38

4. From Thirst to Flowing Rivers

Is the River of Life flowing here?

"...Lord, I want to drink from your cup."

THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS

Growth Groups are new to the River, and they exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it can happen.

SHARE Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as we feel more comfortable. This process takes time and cannot be rushed or forced. Groups will work to create a safe and confidential environment for all.

STUDY Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the session it is our hope that we can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed us to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom. (Resource: North Coast Church, CA)

PRAYER GUIDE

Praise & Thanksgiving:

Betsy Forester's father making good progress after surgery
Directors of worship and music

Pray for healing:

Diane Lukas-@ Meriter Hospital for Kidney Problems

Pray for:

Verona Crop Walk, Oct 11

Sugar River Charter Conference, Oct 18

Sugar River Growth Groups

Our troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and abroad

GROWTH GUIDE – Sugar River UMC

For the week of September 27, 2009

Welcome to the Fall quarter of Growth Groups!

This week we kick off our Fall Growth Group session. Your first meeting will include time to get acquainted, as well as a review of your Growth Group Covenant. To prepare, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Share your earliest memory of being in church. If you did not grow up around a church, share your earliest perceptions of church.

2. What do you remember about a neighbor/neighbors from childhood?

3. Being new can be lonely and uncomfortable. Share a time when you were in this position and explain what helped or could have helped to make you feel included.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Matthew 22:37-40

1. God calls His followers to love Him and love one another. What does that look like at Sugar River? In your growth group? In your personal walk of faith?

2. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Describe a time when you did not follow this command.

3. If each believer did show compassion and acceptance (love) to others, how would our church, community and world be affected?

Read Matthew 28:19-20

4. What does it mean to “make disciples”? How does Sugar River facilitate/hinder this process?

5. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them to make disciples of others? How does this commission make you feel?

TAKING IT HOME

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

1. How would you like the next 10 weeks in your small group to change you?

2. Ephesians 2: 19-22 calls for us to belong, not just believe. What should be involved/required in “belonging” or becoming a member of Sugar River?

3. What neighbor will you call this week to show a gesture of love? What will this gesture be?