



August 23, 2010

Dear LifeGroup Leader,

We're excited once again about this coming fall and look forward to hearing what God is doing in

As we move forward into the fall, we are excited about moving into a new series that will be great to integrate into your small group life. Please take a look at what we're suggesting for your group on the next page, and we hope you will join us in the journey. Here are some upcoming dates to pay attention to:

- ✓ **September 12, 10:30am (library): Required Leader Orientation**  
Here you will receive materials for the fall, information, and can pick up pre-ordered curriculum. Don't miss the picnic after church, too!
- ✓ **September 19, after worship: LifeGroup Link (Family Life Center)**  
Event to connect people to groups. If you have room in your group, please let us know on the 12<sup>th</sup> so we can have an accurate list on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ **November 13, 9am to 2pm: Community Plunge (various locations)**  
Pull your group together to join with members of Fair Haven, Rock Harbor, and South Harbor for this day of service in our communities being the hands and feet of Christ.

We plan to continue to resource and support you as leaders. One of the ways we want to do that is through suggested curriculum listed on the next page. Another way is through what we're calling "Next Wave Groups." Next Wave Groups are LifeGroups with a more focused growth component, discipleship process, and leader resourcing. In response to last year's *Reveal* spiritual assessment, we realize that many people in our congregation would benefit from a more focused process of discipleship that covers a core set of learnings. We're developing a core set of small group materials and training for leaders who want to enter the Next Wave of their discipleship process as a group. Check out the information on the curriculum sheet. If you are interested in this process, please contact Pastor Tom Elenbaas for more information.

Our team is here to provide training, support, encouragement, inspiration, and helpful tools. We are also here to be a listening ear, to offer prayer and any advice that might be helpful. If your group is struggling with any issue (divorce in the group, difficult people, attendance issues, commitment, etc.) we'd love to help. You can reach us as a team by email at [lifegroups@fhmin.org](mailto:lifegroups@fhmin.org) or by calling the church office at 662-2100 for our contact information.

Thanks for serving Christ as a LifeGroup leader, and we'll see you soon!

Tom Elenbaas (Pastor of Cultivation), Larry & Judy Bergman, Bob & Beth King, Diane Roelofs, Don Khatiwoda

HAVE A LEADER READY TO  
START A NEW GROUP?  
CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO  
TRAIN, EQUIP, AND COACH  
NEW LEADERS.

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## HOW DO YOU PLAN TO KICK-OFF THE FALL?

- ATTEND THE FALL  
CHURCH PICNIC  
TOGETHER ON  
SEPTEMBER 12
- HAVE A FALL BBQ
- BE CREATIVE!

*WE'VE FOUND THAT GROUPS  
WHO HAVE FUN TOGETHER  
SOCIALLY EVERY 4 TO 6 WEEKS  
ENHANCE RELATIONSHIPS AND  
THE STRENGTH OF THE GROUP.  
MAKE PLANS NOW!!*

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## PURPOSEFUL LIVING RETREAT

*ATTEND & ENCOURAGE GROUP  
MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE  
PURPOSEFUL LIVING RETREAT.  
THIS RETREAT IS A CHANCE TO  
LOOK AT YOUR LIFE PAST,  
PRESENT, & FUTURE & SPEND  
QUALITY TIME DISCERNING GOD'S  
LEADING IN YOUR LIFE. WE'LL  
HELP YOU DEVELOP SOME  
PERSONAL GOALS & LIFE-  
PLANNING FOR THE NEXT COUPLE  
OF YEARS.*

*SUNDAY OCT 24, 4-6PM &  
SATURDAY NOV. 6, 8AM-2PM*

SIGN UP AT  
[WWW.FHMIN.ORG/PURPOSE](http://WWW.FHMIN.ORG/PURPOSE)

## SERMON SERIES' AND SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

### More than Chicken Soup: September

Sometimes we treat the Christian life like a set of inspirational stories that make us feel good about life. But the Bible is about much more than that. It's a rich collection of history, miracle, drama, beauty, brokenness and restoration, salvation, wisdom, and is the ultimate authority and story of our lives. This fall – in response to the *Reveal* spiritual assessment – we'll take a deeper look at the Bible, how to incorporate it into our lives, and what difference it makes in the life of the believer.

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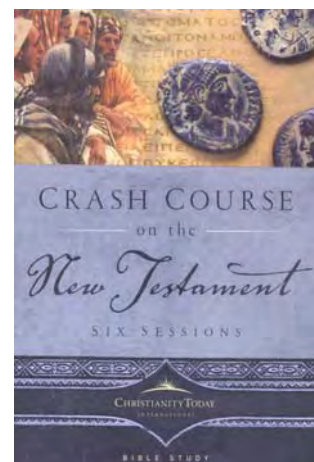
### Suggested Curriculum

*We're doing something a little different this fall.* As we launch into this series on the place of Bible in our lives, we're inviting each person into an individual challenge (Reading the New Testament), groups into a related 6 week study (Crash Course in the New Testament), and providing a supplemental class on Wednesday nights (Thru the New). We encourage you to come along for the ride, encouraging everyone in your group to at least read and participate in the 6 week study – and for those who want a little more, to attend the Wednesday night class.

**Reading the New Testament:** This fall, we'll be challenging the congregation to read through the New Testament in 90 Days beginning on October 3 and ending December 31. This amounts to about 2.5 chapters of daily reading. We'll be providing a card bookmark that will list the chapters for each day with a check box to keep track of what you've read.

**Crash Course in the New Testament:** This 6 week curriculum can be used by LifeGroups alongside of the bible reading to enrich the process and grow in knowledge of the major themes and teachings of the New Testament. You can preorder by calling Sheila at 662-2100 or online at <http://www.fhmin.org/lgleaders>.

**Thru The New:** This 10 week class will be offered in lieu of The Story this year on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8pm beginning on September 29. In a New Testament Survey type format, we will spend significant time understanding how the NT is put together, the writers, the geography, the historical background of each book, and much, much more.



## Next Wave Groups

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**Next Wave Groups** are LifeGroups with a more focused growth component, discipleship process, and leader resourcing. In response to last year's *Reveal spiritual assessment*, we realize that many people in our congregation would benefit from a more focused process of discipleship that covers a core set of learnings. We're developing a core set of small group materials and training for leaders who want to enter the **Next Wave** of their discipleship process as a group. Check out the information on the curriculum sheet. If you are interested in this process, please contact Pastor Tom Elenbaas for more information.

Here are the BASICS:

- **Biblical Understanding:** Goal – gaining an understanding of the basic story, characters, and trajectory of salvation history and how to read the bible for spiritual growth and deeper understanding.
- **Apostles Teachings:** Goal – gaining an understanding of basic Christian theology.
- **Spiritual Practices:** Goal – developing regular practices of the Christian spiritual life.
- **Influential Living:** Goal – understanding spiritual gifts, witnessing to the Gospel, and having an impact on our spheres of influence
- **Character Development:** Goal – developing room to participate in the transforming work of the Spirit and live lives of accountability and biblical integrity.

*We are currently seeking groups and leaders* to be trained as Next Wave Groups and leaders. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity for deeper growth and leadership. If you are interested in this process, please contact Pastor Tom Elenbaas for more information (616.307.0284, elenbaas@fhmin.org).

# LIFEGROUPS QUICK PLAN GUIDE: FALL 2010

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This Quick Plan Guide is provided to help you plan your group calendar for the winter. We hope this will help you to think purposefully about your time together as a group and is provided as a suggested “plug ‘n play” calendar for your group life.

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## September 12

- Leaders and potential leaders attend the required LifeGroup Leader Orientation at 10:30am in the library. Let us know if you have any openings in your group for new people!
- Plan on attending the All Church Picnic after both services with your group.

## September 12 – September 26

- Do something fun socially together. Ideas: have a BBQ; host a game night; host a progressive dinner; be creative.
- Talk about the fall and establish your calendar and meeting dates.
- Agree to a covenant of meeting times, focus, etc. You can get a sample copy of the covenants by clicking on “Resources” at <http://www.fhmin.org/lgleaders>
- Encourage everyone in the

## September 26 – November 21:

September 26 – October 2	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 1: Jesus, Identity and Influence
October 3 –9	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 2: The Church Begins
October 10 –16	Do something fun and social together.
October 17 –23	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 3: Paul's Conversion and Missionary Journeys
October 24 –30	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 4: Salvation
October 31 – November 6	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 5: Controversies in the Early Church
November 13	Participate in the Community Plunge from 9am to 2pm
November 14 – 20	Crash Course in the New Testament Chapter 6: The End of the Age

## November 21 – December 31

- Spend some time socially together during the Christmas season.
- Do a project together to help someone else as a group during Christmas. For ideas, contact Dale Vredevelde by calling the church office: 662-2100.
- Review your year so far as a group and talk about next steps.
- Attend the Thanksgiving and Christmas services together.