

# STUDY LEADER NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOLIVAR

## WHAT IS IN THE CHANGE CONTINUED

In our last issue, which is available on the church website I began an overview explaining the rationale behind changing the name of Sunday School and Weekday Small groups to Core Discipleship Groups. There are thirteen activities or benchmarks that we want all Core Discipleship Groups to always be working toward. This list is part of a larger Small Group Ministry document. (Full document @ <http://www.fbcbolivar.org/doc-and-forms/>)

The goal is that “all members should be involved” in a Core Discipleship Group. The strategy is that Core Discipleship Groups have a primary use of the building on Sunday mornings, but can meet anytime.

The “activities” that characterize good Core Discipleship Groups are as follows:

- [] Core Discipleship Groups will conduct class on an ongoing basis.
- [] Bible Study will be the key component of Core Discipleship Groups.
- [] CDG’s will promote daily bible study.
- [] Each Core Discipleship Group will promote attendance in the corporate worship service of the member’s choice.
- [] The Core Discipleship Group membership will seek to meet the benevolence needs of the group.
- [] Core Discipleship Groups will engage in ongoing fellowship, and will plan and implement at least one off campus fellowship a semester.
- [] Core Discipleship Groups will engage in one service project a semester.
- [] Each Core Discipleship Group will have a vision for starting additional classes and developing new leadership.
- [] Movement from one Core Discipleship Group to another Core Discipleship Group would be optional.
- [] In general, no membership caps will be enforced for Core Discipleship Groups, but a membership cap of 20 will be encouraged.
- [] Core Discipleship Group leadership must be engaged in semiannual leadership training.
- [] Core Discipleship Group leader’s will report to responsible Pastor for benchmark status.
- [] Core Discipleship Group curriculum must be approved by the Discipleship Pastor.

The list sounds very official and to be honest it is “officially” what we agreed to work towards as a faith community. But my question is, who would not want to be involved in a good Core Discipleship Group regardless of age? Think about the group we are describing. A group that plans to meet weekly for Bible Study and encourage each other to be in God’s word daily. A group that enjoys worshipping and encourages each other to be involved in worship. A group that seeks to take care of and minister to its members. A group that fellowships and serves together. A group that has a vision to grow both members and leaders to help reach new friends in a small group setting. A group lead by leaders who want to know how to lead better and seek to train to do so. Sounds like a group I would like to be apart of, it sounds like my Thursday night Core Discipleship Group.

Effective Core Discipleship Groups use proven and effective action.

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### Special points of interest:

- \* [WWW.FBCBOLIVAR.ORG](http://WWW.FBCBOLIVAR.ORG)
- \* [WWW.LIFEWAY.COM](http://WWW.LIFEWAY.COM)
- \* [WWW.YOUVERSION.COM](http://WWW.YOUVERSION.COM)
- \* [WWW.MYBIBLESTUDY.COM](http://WWW.MYBIBLESTUDY.COM)

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**FIRST GROUP TRAINING**

This Sunday, February 12 at 5:00 pm in Room 218, Larry Stehr will be leading a four week study call First Group: Building Biblical Community Leader Training.

This group experience is designed to help existing and potential leaders to

understand what it means to belong to a small group, know how to live in the community and do life together. If you did not sign up, that is ok. Come and join us if you would be interested in knowing more about leading a Core Discipleship Group.

**A Word of Thanks**

Each year we look for a creative way to say thank you to everyone that takes a key part in leadership in our Children's, Youth and Adult Core Discipleship Group ministry as well as the number of people who work in Extended Session during worship.

Kyle, Missy and I kicked around a lot of ideas. I suggested a candy bar with a cheesy note, Kyle and Missy kindly encouraged me for a better idea. We thought about coffee, but some of you do not drink coffee. A small ice cream cone was suggested, but it is after the holidays and we knew some would be on a diet. We did not want to be a temptation.

So we were right back where we began. Searching for a good way to say thank you to all of our leaders who are so faithful to serve, who come prepared each week, and give over and above. We wanted to do something big. A thank you that was more than a card, bigger than a cheesy note, would last longer than an ice cream cone.

Then we thought about movie passes. A four pack of movie passes. Good anytime. Something you could share with your family or friends. But there was a catch. We could only give so many in a year. Why not spread them out, give them away once a quarter. It would be a great chance to say thanks to everyone when we announce who received the movie passes. It would be a good time to celebrate together with those we work with that received the passes. So that is what we did.

Once a quarter we will draw from our leadership in preschool, children, youth, adults and extended session for a pack of four movie passes—use them how you want. Take the family, invite your co-workers, take friends or have a date night. But once you have received the blessing of tickets you will have to wait until everyone else in your division has received them before your eligible again.

So Missy, Kyle and I say thank you to everyone that is serving. Rejoice with the following for we have randomly drawn the following names:

Preschool— Kellie Harris  
Children—Terri Henson  
Youth—Mark Grabowski  
Adults—John Thomas  
Extended Session—Mary Voris