

# CIRCLE OF CARE GUIDE



Week of July 20, 2008

## **Growing in Grace on the Journey Inward, Together and Outward**

Circles of CARE are the primary way of being church at Crossroads. This is a place where we intentionally present ourselves to God and one another to grow in grace and love in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and to serve our family, community and world.

**BRING YOUR BIBLE TO CIRCLE. PREPARE FOR CIRCLE BY USING THE DAILY GUIDE DURING YOUR DAILY PERSONAL DEVOTION TIME IN SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER.**

### **The Journey Inward**

Circle participants are growing in grace through our daily inward journey and commitment to the acronym CARE. This inward journey prepares us for the journey together with our Circle of CARE.

**Call** – We are called to know and love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength empowered by the Holy Spirit. This Call is lived out daily in words and deeds of love in relationship to our neighbor (family, community and world) as revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

**Accountability** – We are called to grow in grace by living an examined life before God and within Christian community.

**Reflection** - The weekly and daily rhythm of prayer, scripture and meditation provide the pathway to an ever deepening, transforming relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

**Engagement** – The servant way of Jesus is a witness of God’s love as we desire to grow in becoming the transforming presence of Christ in our family, community and world.

### **The Journey Together**

#### **Gathering & Centering**

**5 min.**

Read Luke 21:5-6 and Matthew 21:12-13

Take a moment to light a candle symbolizing God’s presence among you and sit for two minutes in silence. Instruct the group to read your selected scripture verses very slowly and prayerfully. The second time you read these verses, write the word or words that appear to shimmer or stand-out for you. Record those words on the back of your Circle Guide. As you feel led, take a moment to share your reflections with the Circle. There is no discussion of comments during this time. It is simply sharing what the Holy Spirit revealed to you.

**Scripture Memory Verse** James 1:27

**3 min.**

Recite the memory verse together:

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.”

#### **Message Commentary**

**5 min.**

There is no Message Commentary for this week.

## Reflection & Accountability

30 min.

Have someone read the scripture out loud. Then have every one in the Circle read the passage for him/herself.

**Scripture reading:** Romans 12:1-2 (The Message) 1-2 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

**Reflection:** These questions are from Monday's Daily Guide. Allow time for every one to share how they responded to the questions and then see if there is some communal discernment around the text.

What does it mean to take one's everyday, ordinary life and place it before God?

What does this action of placing our life before God have to say about the integration of sacred and secular life?

What does this scripture point to as a result if we don't give our every day, ordinary life to God?

What are the challenges that keep us from giving our every day life to God?

**Accountability:** How can you hold each other lovingly accountable to applying scripture to every day life?

## The Prayer for One Another

40 min.

During this time, the Circle members should share their individual concerns, struggles and praises, and then ask the group to pray for them during the coming week. Designate one member to write down the prayer requests and then distribute them to the group by e-mail the next day.

1. Share a word of gratitude for an experience of God's grace this week.
2. Share a prayer request for yourself and your other concerns.

## Crossroads Church Family Prayer Requests

Pray for Hope for Africa Children's Choir who are safely touring in Wisconsin. They send their love and thanks to Crossroads!  
Pray for David Bennett, Jen Score, Susan and Christina Yantis and Christine Coogle who will be returning from Uganda this week.  
Pray for Cyndi McQueen who is still grieving the loss of her mother.  
Pray for our Hispanic brothers and sisters who are struggling with immigration issues.  
Pray for the great food shortage in the world because of exorbitant prices.  
Pray for your friends and family who are not in a relationship with Jesus.  
Pray for all marriages.  
Pray for peace in the world.  
Pray for those who are single and struggle in a "couple" based culture.  
Pray for those who are struggling financially.  
Pray for those in job transitions.  
Pray for all of us to remain faithful to our giving even while away. (Online giving)

## The Journey Outward

The journey outward reflects our desire to become Jesus' presence in our family, community and world. It is part of our sacred rhythm and important to spiritual growth as is the journey inward (loving God and ourselves) and together (loving our neighbor).

- Change for Change – Collect and bring your loose change each week to worship. The change collected benefits all of Crossroads local and DC missions.
- Consider helping with ESL with simple administrative and organizational tasks.
- Consider making sandwiches and traveling to Franklin Square in DC for Food and Fellowship on the first and third Sundays.
- Was there anything else that spoke to you from the worship celebration that might be calling you to move outward in service to others?