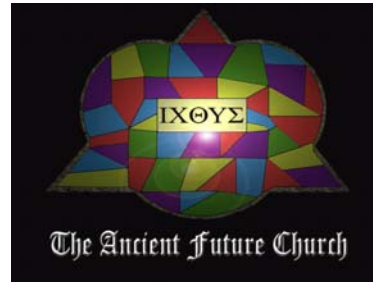


# CIRCLE OF CARE GUIDE



Week of May 11, 2008

## The Journey Inward

### Preparation for Circle

Your Spirit empowered journey inward through personal prayer, silence, scripture reading, meditation and worship is the core foundation for personal and communal spiritual growth. Call, Accountability, Reflection and Engagement are the Biblical commitments we make to know and listen for God's leading in the daily challenges and celebrations expressed in our journey together when we gather each week. It is from here that we celebrate and engage the journey outward to our families, workplace, community and world. Please take time to prepare by studying the historical context through the Scripture Commentary and your Study Bible before you come to Circle. The blending of loving God with all our heart, mind and soul is reflected in this journey inward preparation.

## The Journey Together

### Gathering & Centering

5 min.

Centering Leader: Open in prayer, inviting the Spirit of God to lead your time together. Then light a candle of some kind and spend 3-5 minutes in silence centering yourself before God and in your Circle. You can end your silence with a spoken "Amen".

### Scripture Memory Verse Acts 1:8

3 min.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

### Message Commentary Acts 2:1-21

5 min.

The commentary is available on a separate sheet and should be read prior to your Circle meeting. The commentary is available on Crossroads' website or on the information walls at church. Are there any questions or comments about the commentary?

### Reflection & Accountability

30 min.

1. Read Acts 2:1-8 What does being filled with the Holy Spirit mean to you? Why do you think Luke used such graphic images – rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire, speaking in other languages – to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit? Read John 20:22. What is the difference between the comings of the Holy Spirit in those two stories?
2. Read Acts 2:16-21 Here Peter tries to explain what just happened when the Holy Spirit came to those who didn't understand it at all – "They have had too much wine." Peter refers to the prophet Joel when he said in the last days God's Spirit was going to be poured out and it was the young men and women who were going to have a word for the church. Yet as it says in Wednesday's Daily Guide – "Seven in 10 Protestants, ages 18-30 – both evangelical and mainline – who went to church regularly in high school, said they quit attending by 23." Do you think this is just a phase kids go through or do you think this should be a real concern for the church? How can we keep the 22 young people who were confirmed on Sunday interested, involved and connected to Jesus in Christian community? How did the confirmation experience speak to you about taking your own place in Christian community?

## 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 Crossroads Youth, our interim Youth Director, Chris Wimmer and the search for a Youth Director.

Pray for the 23 young people who were confirmed this week. Jillian Carrigan, Tyler Daley, Jennifer Friberg, Emma Garcia, Paul Hegedus, Brett Larson, Tori Lemmon, Allison MacKrell, Morgan McGovern, Kenny Modowski, Griffine Murphy, Hope Paccione, Matthew Penny, Davide Prange, Danika Showalter, Eric Skogerbee, Junam Skogerbee, Katie Snyder, Allie Tebbenhoff, Evan Thomas, Will Thompson, Shelby Whitwell

Pray for the Parrotte family as Kenny continues chemo B, college distance learning and work.

Please pray for Ray and Kay Gore as Ray is in his ongoing cancer treatment.

Please pray for the Pillor family while they continue to grieve and heal after the death of their son Matt.

Pray for Michelle Hammons who is undergoing chemo.

Pray for Uganda Children's Choir while touring the USA and coming to Crossroads 7/3-8.

Pray for our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

Pray for the families who lost friends and family in the cyclone.

Pray for the survivors of the cyclone.

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 women who want to bear children but cannot.

Pray for college students graduating, coming back home or travelling.

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 those who have not come into the fullness of God's love through a relationship with Jesus.

## 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).

- Food and Fellowship at Franklin Square in D.C. April 6 and 20 Distributions For more information, contact [DCmissions@ecrossroadsumc.org](mailto:DCmissions@ecrossroadsumc.org).
- Change for Change – Collect and bring your loose change each week to worship. The change collected benefits all of Crossroads local and DC missions
- Grace Ministry – April 18 and 19. Sign up to help online.
- Christmas in April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Reach Work Camp for Youth July 6-12.