

Shannon Ford - I am excited about the future of Adult Ministries at First Baptist Fort Mill. Starting September 13 things will look a little different for adults at First Baptist. Let's review our current ministries and then take a look at the changes coming to these ministries.

1. **ABF** - Adult Bible Fellowship classes help adults become fully devoted followers of Christ by providing groups of similar ages that meet for high-impact Bible study, connect through fellowship, organize for care, and get involved in ministry. ABF classes meet at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

→ **Changes:** The only change in our ABF ministry will be the times that ABF classes meet. Starting September 13, ABF classes will meet at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. In addition, there will be some ABF classes that change room location.

Adult Bible Fellowship classes will **not** be discontinued or replaced. They remain a vital ministry for adults of First Baptist.

2. **SNL** – Sunday Night Life is an essential ministry in growing deeper in one's relationship with God. SNL offers a number of classes that can increase your faith and knowledge. These classes meet for 12 consecutive Sunday evenings in both the fall and spring.

→ **Changes:** The format for our discipleship ministry will change to a small group setting. These small groups will be called "semester groups." The variety of discipleship resources (i.e. Beth Moore studies, The Truth Project, Precept classes, Crown, etc.) will still be offered. These classes will now take place in a small group atmosphere in the home or at the church in special cases. "Semester groups" will start in January 2010 with sign-ups in December 2009.

3. **Other Adult Ministries** – The remaining adult ministries (*Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, and WMU/WOM*) will continue with no changes.

4. **Small Groups** – Starting in September, our church will introduce an exciting new ministry for adults called "small groups." A small group is a group of ten to twelve people that are committed to meeting on a regular basis and time schedule with the intent to become fully-developed followers of Jesus Christ.

This new ministry will be implemented through three different groups.

- a. **LIFE Groups** → These small groups consist of 10 – 12 people who will meet on an on-going basis with the purpose of "doing life together." The goals of these groups are encouragement, accountability, and life transformation. Bible study, fellowship, prayer, evangelism, and participation in serving opportunities are the primary aspects of these groups.

In addition, members of LIFE Groups will be encouraged to attend the 11:00 worship service on Sundays and serve in a ministry area instead of attending an ABF class. To learn more about the exciting serving opportunities in our church please visit <http://www.fbcfm.com/serving>.

To learn more about LIFE Groups please plan to attend the “GroupLink” event this Sunday evening (August 9) from 6:00 – 7:30 in the Chapel and Fellowship Hall.

- b. Semester Groups → These small groups will meet during the fall and spring to study specific discipleship curriculums. These groups will meet for the duration of the selected curriculum. The group size will depend upon participant sign-ups. Semester groups are encouraged to meet in homes or at the church in special approved cases. Sign-ups will begin in December 2009 for the spring semester groups starting in January 2010.
- c. Campaign Groups → These small groups are formed around a church-wide campaign. Campaign groups are formed for church-wide campaigns such as “40 Days of Community” or “Fireproof Your Marriage.” These groups are typically six weeks long and are designed to be a “Taste and See” experience for people to try a small group. Campaign group members commit for a six-week period with the option to leave the group after the completion of the campaign.

On September 13, our church will launch another church-wide campaign called “One Month to Live.” Campaign groups will be formed to allow adults to experience this powerful material in a small group outside of an ABF class. The campaign groups will consist of 10-12 members that meet in homes during various times of the week.

I am excited about the future for our church. I am excited about the life-transformation potential that these ministry changes offer. I am excited to think about how God is going to move and work in His church. I am excited to think about adults being changed and God’s name being glorified.

The next email in this series will continue to talk about the challenges we face in this transition.