

LIVING ON PURPOSE: EVANGELISM

Last week we brainstormed. This week let's start planning. Each group is asked to plan a community activity or event. Spend some time figuring out what your group wants to do.

We want not only to speak but to **be** "Good News" in our community—in the name of Jesus.

CLOSING:

A couple of reminders as you close:

- Home groups are great ways to get closer to other believers. That's good. But there is a caution: let's make sure they don't develop into a clique. When you are in worship on Sundays, please make sure that you greet other people as well as your group. Especially greet people you have not met.
- Getting **Drenched in the Divine Perspective** is a good thing, a God thing! Satan won't be happy. Be on guard against temptation or distraction!

Share in a time of prayer. Please include our congregation, community leaders and people in need in your prayers.

Drenched in the Divine Perspective

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2008
Home Group Discussion #2

Ready for a plunge?

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9 (NIV)

This four part study is designed to do two things.

First, it will challenge us to get more aggressive with four key spiritual disciplines: Scripture reading, prayer, giving and evangelism. The more we plunge into these disciplines, the more we will see life like God does!

Second, the study will continue to focus our congregational life on five key purposes:

Worship: live to please God

Fellowship: be connected into God's family

Discipleship: become like Jesus

Ministry: serve others

Evangelism: share Jesus

OPENING:

Talk about Jesus. What did you learn about your walk with Jesus this last week? What did you read in his word that impacted you? What did you find joyful this past week as a Christian? What did you find difficult?

As you begin this session have someone lead the group in **prayer asking God's blessings** on those present.

A FUNNY WAY TO START A FIRE!

Read I Kings 18:16-39.

Elijah had a funny way to start a fire. Not many of us would first drench a wood pile with water before we tried to light it. (No it wasn't lighter fluid!)

While our Epiphany sermon and home group series gets us *drenched in the divine perspective*, the real goal is *incendiary*. Can we become (more) *on fire* for Jesus and *ablaze* in Christian witness?

Last week we accented reading the word. This week we will look at increasing time in prayer. Both of these activities involve spiritual discipline.

Neither activity is an end in itself. That would be pharisaical. Spiritual disciplines are like push-ups. Football teams do not do push-ups for the sake of becoming *champion doers of push-ups*. Push-ups help players to be stronger and bolder for playing football!

We don't practice a spiritual discipline to grow in the discipline itself (push-up champion). Rather, we practice spiritual disciplines to become *stronger, more competent, even bold Christians*. Can we be *ablaze* like Peter and John who said, "We *cannot help* speaking about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20)

Drenched in the divine perspective that God might set us *ablaze* with a bold and joyful witness! Is this a good strategy for evangelism? Why? Why not?

READY TO FLOOD HIS THRONE?

What things do you own that you do not use? Anyone have an extra car? Do you have appliances tucked away in distant recesses of the basement or an unreachable kitchen cabinet? Do you have a tool you had to have that was used a couple times and not since? What about an old intercom system or an ancient C.B.?

Tonight we want to consider prayer. Are we "using" it or have we stuffed it off in a forgotten or seldom used closet?

Read and discuss Matthew 7:7-12, John 14:9-13 and James 4:1-3. How do these passages impact your prayer life? **What if these passages are really true?**

Consider this statement, "Neglect of prayer cripples the Church and its people." Do you agree? Disagree?

Discuss your prayer life. When do you pray? How much do you pray? Do you make up your own prayers? Do you use written prayers? Do you use prayers from the hymnal? Do you have set times or places to pray?

Sometimes Jesus **spent the night** in prayer. The early followers **devoted** themselves to prayer (Acts 2:42). Famous Christians like Martin Luther and Charles Wesley **prayed for two to four hours a day**.

Discuss "how much" time in prayer is the right amount of time. Is that a good question or a bad question? What caution does Matthew 6:5-8 give? *What might happen if you increased your prayer time—drenched yourself in it?* Are you willing to experiment?