

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

One of the ways we serve others in the congregation is through prayer. Share with one another a prayer request for the group to work on for the coming week.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

During the next few weeks each home group will be asked to adopt a project in the community that would help to evidence the love of Jesus for those who are outside of the church.

Begin discussing and praying about a project your group might adopt.

CLOSING PRAYER

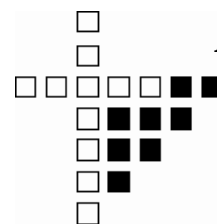
In your closing prayer please pray for continued unity and growth in outreach at St. Luke.

CYBER CONVERSATION ABOUT UNCOMMON PEOPLE

All are invited to join in an online conversation about the book [The Call](#) by Oz Guinness. This book will help you explore the unique call that God has given each one of us.

Copies of the book should be available at local book stores

Go to our web site for more information.
www.stlukehas.com/chat



An Uncommon People

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2009
Home Group Discussion #1

Encouragement for a More Intentional Christian Lifestyle

There is nothing outside a man which can enter into him and make him 'common'. It is the things which come out of a man that make him 'common'!
Mark 7:14 (Phillips NT)

This four part study is designed to do two things.

First, it continues our year long emphasis on prayerfulness. Each session will accent God's invitation to prayer and our response to that invitation.

Second, it leads participants into a discussion about being *an uncommon people*. In calling us to himself, God has called us to be different from the unbelieving world around us. We are to stick out, not blend in.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (connected to one another)
Make sure everyone in your group knows each other.

Spend a few minutes sharing a significant goal you hope to achieve or an activity you hope to accomplish in 2009.

Spend a few minutes sharing what you think the biggest challenge will be for you in 2009.

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

During 2008-2009 we are emphasizing greater prayerfulness. We want to take God's invitation to prayer more seriously.

Before you pray, spend a moment thinking, "*We are about to talk to the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth who proved his love by sending his Son to be crucified for us.*"

In your time of worship please lift up prayers regarding:

- The needs of others in your group and in the congregation.
- The welfare of our community and country.
- Thankfulness for the goodness of God... in all times.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

Uncommonly Inquisitive

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11

Read John 1:43-49 Nathanael was biased against Jesus. Because Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathanael was not sure that he wanted anything to do with him. His first reaction to the invitation to see Jesus was to pass.

Talk about a time you were biased against someone or something. What did you have to do to overcome that bias? What was the result? Were you surprised or was your bias confirmed.

Nathanael was persuaded to be more inquisitive. Philip said, "Come and see." As Nathanael did so, he was rewarded with a great insight, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God."

Most Christians **are not very inquisitive** when it comes to the Scripture. Over 50 % of professing Christians do not read their Bible weekly (Barna Group), and less than 10% of professing Christians have read through the entire Bible.

What are some biases that would lead Christians to not be inquisitive about what is in the Bible? How are these different from or the same as biases that some non Christians might have against the Scripture.

God has words that call us to be inquisitive about him and his word. Read the following. What do they have to say about the Word of God and inquisitiveness?

- Proverbs 4:1-9: What do you make of this priority?
- Isaiah 55:6-11: What do you make of this promise?
- John 5:39: How do searching and reading differ?
- Colossians 3:15-16: What does richly mean?
- Romans 12:2 How do our minds get renewed?

Scripture Alone, But Not Only Scripture

While God's people should have a specific inquisitiveness about Scripture, they also benefit from general intellectual searching. React to the following quotes:

Christ wants a child's heart but a grown-up's head. C. S. Lewis

Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful observation of objective structures we cause thought processes to move in a certain way... When done with concentration, perception and repetition, ingrained habits of thought are formed. Richard Foster

Discuss what it would look like to be uncommonly inquisitive about God, his world and his will. What difference would it make to be uncommonly inquisitive?