

SOMETHING DIFFERENT, SOMETHING NEW

Pastor Crawford has announced an eight-week diversion in our adult Sunday school program. Each one of us goes through a time when we want a change. It may be an unusual way home from work instead of that same old street every day. Just a change in routine. Many times, we need to be very leery of change, but change can be an incentive to learn something new from a unique perspective.

To that end, five new adult Sunday school classes have been formed and will be offered in February and March this year. All the current adult Sunday school classes will be placed on “hold” for two months to allow Sunday school members and those who are not currently attending Sunday school the opportunity to participate in the new curriculum. Please don’t miss the blessing that is available to you by learning more about the Christian life that will be very evident in these electives. A brief description from the teachers follows.

Answering for the Faith

As Christians, we often face questions about our faith and our testimony, and some of these can be “hard” questions. We face questions about our own lives and our relationship with God - What does scripture say to me? How do I live my life with confidence that I am in God’s will?

We also face questions from without. Young Christians want advice or guidance about their walk with God. Non-believers can challenge our life principles, or our belief in an eternal, sovereign God.

This is where the idea of “Apologetics” comes in. This class will have its basis in the scripture and will give some insight on how, and why, we need to be prepared in order to “answer” hard questions. II Timothy 2:15 tells us to “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

We will look at the perspective of “hard” questions from a biblical, and practical standpoint, that we might “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15).

Russ Detherage and Dennis Homesly – Team Teachers

Baptist Distinctives

A distinctive is a distinguishing mark or characteristic which identifies and sets apart. In our study of the Baptist distinctives we will examine distinguishing marks that identify us as Baptists. Why would we want to study Baptist distinctives? After all, we know why we are Baptist, don't we? Can we articulate the marks that specifically identify a Baptist? Can we name the several specific beliefs or interpretation of things that set Baptists apart from other Christian denominations?

Over the centuries, many millions of Christians have been martyred for holding to the Biblical practices that identify the Baptist. If men have been willing to die for these Scriptural principles, then we also should know what we believe and why, and be ready to defend our position. In addition, we will explore the historical roots of the Baptist persuasion and try to answer a few questions such as: From whence did Baptists come? Can a historical path be seen in the development of the Baptist domination? Are Baptists a product of the Protestant Reformation? and, how are Baptists related to other Christian denominations?

I encourage you to take advantage of this study as it will ground you in the Scriptural foundations of Baptist practices.

Lynne Doshier - Teacher

Christians in the Workplace

The best way I know to describe a class about Christians in the workplace is to give you a quick personal testimonial. A huge influence for me that led to accepting Christ as my own Savior were a few Christian men in my workplace who showed me what it was like to have a real and genuine relationship Christ. The reality of their walk with Christ was something that impacted me and something that I was missing and wanted without even realizing it at first. I was someone who hated God and the things of God. Without directly saying it, they showed me that God was something that I was missing in my life. This was a key component that God used to get me ready to accept Christ as my personal savior. Hopefully, this encourages you that you can have the same type of impact on people within your workplace.

In this class, we are going to first focus on the principles of what a real relationship and walk with God looks like doctrinally, and then transition into practically how we take that relationship with God and impact the body of Christ, our workplace, and the world. I am praying that it will teach and encourage us that we can impact our workplace and the world for Christ.

Jim Wilson - Teacher

Biblical Discipleship

Discipleship is closely related to discipline. Most of us don't like the word "discipline." It evokes visions of hard work and time-consuming exercise. Tom Landry, coach of the Dallas Cowboys football team for most of three decades, said, "The job of a football coach is to make men do what they don't want to do to achieve what they've always wanted to be." In much the same way, Christians are called to make themselves do something they would not naturally do -- pursue the Spiritual Disciplines -- to become what they've always wanted to be, that is, like Jesus Christ." In order to be like Jesus Christ, we must be disciples who are obedient to his commission...."Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Matthew 28:19, 20.

The word "teach" in the Greek is literally, disciple. We are called to make disciples. We cannot fulfill that job unless we have disciplined ourselves to be disciples. There is no greater occupation for the Christian walk than to discipline oneself to be like Jesus. His disciples were noted as "these who have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6).

Although our class will focus on learning the principles and disciplines of discipleship, its aim is to view those we come in contact with as being potential disciples also. "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2). Time permitting, we plan to sing a few hymns that will enforce the class direction.

Pastor Phillip Yowell - Teacher

Hands-on Evangelism

What is evangelism? It is not passing out a tract, giving a testimony, inviting someone to church, or being a good example. Evangelism is giving the Gospel!

The goal of the Hands-On Evangelism class is to provide tools to give the gospel in the most effective way possible – relationally. Isn't this the pattern Jesus set for us? The church may be able to provide believers with lists of gospel contacts, but the most effective evangelism takes place when believers give the gospel to the people in their sphere of influence – their friends, relatives, work associates, neighbors, and even strangers God brings along their paths.

I believe that every believer must be prepared to give a thorough, compelling gospel presentation. What are the main truths that an unsaved person must know and acknowledge before they can truly be saved? In the Hands-On Evangelism class, you will receive one-on-one

Bible study materials that you can use to bring Christ to others, you will be shown how to use them, and there will be ample time in each class to share how God has opened doors through your interaction with others. Also, the entire class will be specifically praying for you!

My desire is to see God use this class to help you lead others to Christ from the sphere of influence you are most likely to impact - yours!

Mike Williquette - Teacher

*After reading the descriptions, your selection of the one you wish to take is not easy. Join one of the groups and learn something interesting and something new!