

HOME GROUP PLAN 2009-2010

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 10th *Group Values 1: Focussing on Jesus*
17th *Group Values 2: Everyone contributing*
24th *Group Values 3: Everyone growing*

OCTOBER

- 1st *Group Values 4: Becoming a loving community*
8th *Group Values 5: Everyone witnessing*

- 15th *Lessons from James 1: Wisdom (and 11th pm)*
22nd *Lessons from James 2: Works (and 18th pm)*
29th **HALF TERM** (and 25th pm **3: The Tongue**)

NOVEMBER

- 5th *Lessons from James 3: The Tongue and
4: Wordliness (1st pm)*
12th *Lessons from James 5: Faith (and 8th pm)*

19th OPEN NIGHT

- 26th *Advent Journey 1*

DECEMBER

- 3rd *Advent Journey 2*
10th *Advent Journey 3*
17th *Advent Journey 4*
24th **CAROL SERVICE**

JANUARY 2010

- 7th *People of Vision: Acts 11*
14th *People of Passion: Acts 17*
21st *People of Courage: Acts 18*
28th *People of Promise: Acts 2*

FEBRUARY

- 4th *People of Hope: Acts 20*

- 11th **HALF TERM** (*A heart for God:
Psalm of Penitence 7th pm*)

- 18th *Psalm of Protection (and 14th pm)*
25th *Psalm of Perseverance (and 21st pm)*

MARCH

- 4th *Psalm of Promise (and 28th pm)*

11th OPEN NIGHT

- 18th *Passion: the Crucifixion and the hopeless cry
Psalm 22*

- 25th *Passion: the Crucifixion and the hope of heaven
Luke 23*

APRIL

- 1st **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE:**
The Crucifixion and the hopeful meal Mark 14

8th HOLIDAY

- 15th *Study 1*

- 22nd *Study 2*

- 29th *Study 3*

MAY

- 6th *Study 4*

- 13th *Study 5*

20th OPEN NIGHT

27th HOLIDAY

JUNE

- 3rd *The Message of the Minors:
Amos (and 30th pm)*

- 10th *Hosea (and 6th pm)*

- 17th *Habakkuk (and 13th pm)*

- 24th *Malachi (and 20th pm)*

JULY

- 1st *What's fuelling your anger?*

- 8th *God's purposes in our suffering*

- 15th *When we're afraid to forgive*

- 22th *Harnessing stress*

AUGUST: HOLIDAYS

This programme

The other side of this sheet presents a complete programme of themes for our home groups for the coming year. The dates in bold assume groups meet on Thursday (but not all of them do – see below).

At intervals during the year the home group meetings will link with a series of thematic preaching topics planned for the Sunday 6.00pm evening services. These are the dates which are shown in brackets. So the entry for October that reads:

“15th Lessons from James 1: Wisdom (and 11th pm)”

...means that *Wisdom* will be the preacher’s theme for Sunday 11th October at 6.00pm and it will form the basis of the home group discussions held during the following week whether they are held on Thursday 15th or not.

Each home group takes a turn in cleaning the church on a rota basis, which means that your home group leader will make a decision to either miss a topic altogether or combine topics to compensate so all groups can remain in step most of the time.

Why is it important to be part of a home group?

Christianity is all about relationships so spending time with each other on a regular basis is a good thing. In a small group you get to know people better. We’re all different and we can definitely benefit and learn from each other as we share what we believe about God, the Bible and living out our lives as Christians day by day.

The home group is also where people are most likely to find support in a time of need. When people know about each other, they care about each other, pray for each other and help each other. The Bible also tells us ‘not to give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing’.

How do you get involved in a home group?

If you’ve not been in a group before, you should contact Ian Rutherford and he will discuss it with you and allocate you to a group. It may make sense to be in the group nearest your home or you may want to be in a group with particular people you know well. Some people think the opposite way and want to be with people they don’t know so they can get to know them better. Talk to Ian and he will guide you through.

There are four evening groups running at the moment, led by:

Joyce Chapman (meets on Thursdays)

Steve Cowperthwaite (meets on Mondays)

Stuart Hann (meets on Thursdays)

Tom Sterling (meets on Thursdays)

...plus a **daytime group** (meets on Tuesdays)

If you used to belong to a group and no longer attend, this new series could be your way of getting back in again. You can just go back to your old group or talk to Ian if you want a different group.

Nurture Groups

For people who are new to the life of the church it’s a good idea to start with a nurture group. Nurture groups are run whenever there is a demand and they can be as small as two or three people. Ian will run these groups so please talk to him directly if you think this option might suit you at this time.

The nurture courses give an excellent basic foundation for the Christian faith and are 100% grounded in scripture. Effectively we offer two discipleship courses which are best run one after the other:

Believing and Belonging

Knowing and Growing

These courses are really solid and those ‘more mature’ Christians can benefit from them too.