

When Friends Show Up, Nov. 20 to 23, 2025

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? ***Circle Two Opportunity...***

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face ***anything*** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

LEARNING COMMUNITIES SCHEDULE

Week of Nov. 24 – No.

Week of Dec. 1 and 8 – YES

Weeks of Dec. 15, 22, 29 – NO

Week of Jan. 5 – will RESUME

Battles Have Victories

Fasting was battling, BUT! Battling leads to victories! How have you experienced that?

God’s Manifest Presence during fasting week

What did you notice during Prayer Gathering, Worship, and Groups?

God’s Manifest Presence after fasting week

What have you experienced, noticed, heard during, or since fasting?

In Jesus’ yoke unexpected testimony

Jesus with many when the lame man was lowered through the roof

Luke 5:15–26 (ESV) (pew Bible page 861)

➔ What catches **your** attention? What do you understand about Jesus to help you know Him better?

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None of this happens unless Jesus withdraws to “desolate places” prayer, but it also doesn’t happen if the 4 men fail to overcome the obstacles to get the lame man to Jesus

We cannot do what only God can do, and God will not do what we are assigned to do

John 13:15 (ESV) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

1 Peter 2:21 (ESV) For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

Taking God More Seriously – from Herb’s journal

During this fast, I sense God is telling me that we must take Him more seriously.

*"I have been sending and trusting you with high-quality, truly searching people for years. You have considered it an honor and a steward responsibility, which is true, but it is more. I am putting together a group of people for a purpose that will be serious business. This raises the stakes, so give yourself more fully to Me. I am not raising the stakes but revealing how high the stakes are. Do not put this on the back burner. Like the demon-possessed son or man lowered through the roof, this is IMPORTANT. Be serious about your under shepherd role – that it has **eternal consequences**. You are not simply to be about activities; no longer "playing games" but doing things of Biblical, epic proportions."*

My response: LEAD ME, LORD! I so want to be Your partner in doing so. Like Gideon and Joshua, I wrestle with thoughts that I am not able, that I will fail You. Fill me, mold me, W.I.T. (whatever it takes) to use me as You see fit. As I said Sunday, I don't yet know what to do in response except to Surrender, Listen, and Obey with even more priority on listening for next step instructions.

Takeaways:

New Song Community Church 2025



New Song
Community Church

Current Study: Knowing God by Jesus' Interactions

The focus is to know ABOUT God and to KNOW God better through Jesus' dealings with people

- ➔ Jesus is the Word of God – Logos and Rhema, all-powerful, all-loving, Jesus came for true relationship and partnership by experiencing being fully human and came to reconcile us through His death, resurrection, ascension, and sending the Holy Spirit. Jesus is now with us through the Spirit within, praying for us, and working for us.
- ➔ Jesus is King – announcing it, interacting with followers by saying His Kingdom is within us; with powerful people by saying His Kingdom is not of this world; with the dark powers by defeating them.
- ➔ Jesus' interaction with Peter shows us that His primary instruction is to "Follow Me." We are to do so with a new identity in Him through many training times (walk on water, pray in Gethsemane, persevere when we fail, return to be redeemed by Jesus) and then be deployed in His power within us.
- ➔ Jesus with inner circle transfigured, with father of demon-possessed son, with 9 powerless disciples – some things only happen through prayer and fasting.
- ➔ Jesus with lame man, 4 friends, Jewish leaders, and crowds.