

Adult Spiritual Growth

Bible Passages:

2 Timothy 3:14-17 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 3:18a “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Romans 10:17 “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

Objective:

To enable all adult members in our family of believers to continually grow in faith through hearing and study of God’s Word and thus become better servants of Christ.

Rationale:

Our spiritual growth is linked to our use and study of God’s Word. Our souls will perish without His Word, just as our bodies will die without food. (John 15:5) As we grow and mature in faith, we should be more active and willing servants of Christ. In this way we can accomplish our other purposes of growth in frequency of worship, of fellowship, of offerings, of youth discipleship, of Christian parenting and of Christian care and love for one another.

During the next seven years:

To make this vision a reality,

1. We envision the addition of new and the continuance of existing Bible study groups with emphasis given to greater member participation.
 - a. The Committee of Christian Education will develop a plan to increase member participation in Bible Study.
 - b. The Committee of Christian Education together with the Pastors are to retain Women’s Bible Study, Jordan Towers Bible study, Sunday morning Bible study, Adult Instruction classes, 19 Minute summer Sunday morning Bible study.
 - c. The Pastors/Church Council are to develop new Bible study groups and formats, such as: Men’s Bible study, Lay leader led topical Bible study, Young couples Bible study, Home Bible study, Breakfast Bible study, Audio-visual Bible study, on line Bible (Continued on the next page)

- study, off sight seminars and retreats, etc. (Cf. Group Life/ Fellowship 2d)
- d. The Committee of Christian Education together with the Pastors will strive to maintain a regular and consistent schedule of Bible classes with as few postponements as possible.
 - e. The Elders are to select a volunteer who will assist individuals in finding personal spiritual growth materials, which meet their needs from such resources as Northwestern Publishing House, WELS web page (www.wels.net), etc.
2. We envision a program, which substantially increases the focus on member spiritual growth.
 - a. The Pastors will develop a core curriculumⁱ, which can change spiritual lives.
 - b. We recommend that the Committee of Christian Education consider the possibility that all adult members, especially church leaders, enroll and complete a core curriculum.
 - c. We recommend the possibility of integrating the core curriculum classes as on line Bible studies.
 - d. The Media Committee will continually upgrade our communicative technology to be able to nurture members and reach out to others.
 3. We envision trained leaders who are able to lead others of the congregation in spiritual growth.
 - a. The trained leaders will have completed the level of core curriculum they will be teaching.
 4. We envision increased attendance in Bible study.
 - a. We expect an increased level of expectation for parents of Children's Bible Study and Lutheran Elementary School children to attend a series of periodic Bible study while their children are enrolled.
 - b. We expect 40% of our adult membership will have graduated from the first level of the core curriculum.
 - c. We expect 20% of our members will have finished level 2 of the core curriculum.
 - d. We expect the attendance of at least one weekly Bible study by 25-35% of our communicant membership.
 - e. Our ten-year goal is to have over 50% of our adults in some spiritual growth activity.

5. We envision an increased number of church members having grown in their own faith by the Holy Spirit through the study of God's Word be comfortable sharing their faith with others.

Concluding Statement

“These recommendations concerning Adult Spiritual Growth and the extent of them are grounded in the conviction that unless God’s people are solidly rooted in the Word, efforts to do God’s work will be met with frustration. Christ’s church has its energy and its capacity through the Spirit and the Spirit brings his gifts through the Word. Two key elements in this endeavor will be developing and identifying members who have the spiritual maturity, wisdom and gifts to become adult Bible class leaders and utilizing the best teaching gifts God has given you for the core curriculum. Nothing of lasting value, nothing God wants to find in us and do through us, can happen apart from the working of the Spirit. Adult spiritual growth is foundational to all the other efforts and recommendations.” (Consultants’ Recommendations, page 7, Dr. Ron Heins, Pastor Paul Soukup, and Principal Stephen Schaefer.)

ⁱ A core curriculum is a multilevel curriculum of sequential repeating classes.