

A LETTER FROM PASTOR MIKE

August 10, 2023



Dear Church Family,

It is with great joy and anticipation I share with you the vision behind a MAJOR addition to our Sunday morning discipleship ministries. **Beginning Sunday, September 10th, we will be launching BIBLE BREAKOUT Sessions from 9:30am-10:20am for ALL ages! From young to old, everyone will now have the opportunity to grow together, each and every week.**

For transparency sake, this has been on my heart for several years. The Lord, in His grace, has provided us with the right timing, the right space, and the right leadership to begin this important cultural shift in our weekly gatherings.

Some may ask, "What has caused this to be so important to you Pastor?" Great question! The primary role of the Pastor/Elder is to feed God's sheep and provide the flock everything necessary to grow and mature. Growth and maturity comes by way of knowing and obeying God's words. Biblical teaching is where the emphasis is being placed. Let me show you why (you know how I love outlines):

- 1. The Bible is inerrant, the Spirit is its Author, and it is God's divine revelation of Himself to us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)** 16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
- 2. The Word of God (the Bible) sanctifies us.** Sanctification is the process of the believer being made holy as we conform to the image of Christ. Scripture provides all the understanding we need to be saved, to work out our salvation, and to live a life worthy of the call of salvation. Jesus said in **John 17:17 (ESV)** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
- 3. The church is to be devoted to its teachings. Acts 2:42 (ESV)** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Let me take time to answer the broad questions:

WHY ARE WE MAKING THIS CHANGE?

- 1. TO PROVIDE WEEKLY GATHERINGS AROUND THE BIBLE FOR ALL AGES.**
- 2. TO SIT UNDER BIBLICAL TEACHING.** I have the privilege of preaching most weeks. We are blessed to have several gifted preachers and several gifted teachers among us. Preaching and teaching are unique spiritual gifts that are very different. They require different skill sets and both are necessary for feeding the sheep. I have had the privilege of sitting in our adult class on Sundays to grow and mature. It's refreshing to be fed. Unfortunately, because we do not offer anything for children during this hour, many adults have had to miss sitting under Biblical teaching. A teaching environment will offer fruitful conversation, deeper insight, and genuine encouragement around the word of God.
- 3. TO PROMOTE GENERATIONAL MENTORING.** It is no secret that there are generational divides in every generation. We see it in our fellowship. After all, we tend to flock with those



who are similar to us and can best relate to us in the moment. We want to break those barriers by gathering all adults into a genuine conversation around the word of God.

4. TO EQUIP PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO SPIRITUALLY LEAD. I believe the home is the number one place of discipleship for children and youth. In order to aid parents in their teaching role within the home, we are intentionally aligning the children's BIBLE BREAKOUT session to match with the sermon text in order to provide parents the opportunity to engage in conversation around the Word. I believe children need the example of parents in worship and vice versa. Adults can learn a lot by watching children worship! Therefore, we will not be providing "Kids Church." Instead, ALL the children are welcomed in the 11:00am corporate worship time, each and every Sunday.

5. TO PROVIDE CONSISTENCY FOR PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH. Consistency is key! As a Pastor, I know how difficult it is to maintain ministries that are seasonal. Collide Kids Wednesdays have been seasonal and have been a struggle to maintain, having three months on and then three months off. This comes with many obstacles, including schedules. Some may join in one season and then have to miss another due to sports, musicals, and other school functions. Therefore, we are removing Collide Wednesdays and adding Sunday morning BIBLE BREAKOUT sessions for Pre-K, Elementary, and Youth (Middle School and High School for now) so that they can consistently meet around the Word each and every week. We will also be planning more gatherings for kids and youth throughout the year.

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

When you come in on Sunday mornings, the adults will meet in the sanctuary and the kids will meet in their normal designated areas. Bring your Bible, a notepad, a pen, and a heart ready to engage in the Word! We are shortening our time to end our BIBLE BREAKOUT session at 10:20am, in order to provide our musicians time to warm up without having to show up at 8:30am. Also, this will promote fellowship until we worship at 11:00am, as we will continue with our fellowship time from 10:20am-10:50am. So, stay and grab a coffee, something to eat and chat about what we just learned and then gather in the sanctuary to worship God together!

WHEN WILL IT START?

Beginning Sunday, September 10th at 9:30am

We grow better in circles than in rows. I am asking every person and every family to prayerfully consider partnering in this much needed time in the Bible.

With much love for all of you,
Pastor Mike Hileman