

God Moves in Mysterious Ways: Change & Transition

“People don’t resist change; they resist being changed.” — Peter Senge

Change. Whether positive or negative, expected or unexpected, change can require that we make necessary internal transitions. It is here, that we often resist the very process that can bring about the most significant growth and transformation in our lives.

What are the distinct stages of transition and where are we in the process? How can we be hopeful while navigating the accompanying fear or discomfort? How might we be enabled to release what needs to be let go of, in order to receive the good and new things that await us? Let’s wrestle with these questions & find the beauty and potential that lies within each stage of this sacred journey.

Whatever kind of transition you find yourself in - from new parent to newly retired, empty-nest or widowed, downsizing or simply feeling as if you are in a new season - come and listen to what the Lord is doing in your life.

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
— Isaiah 43:19*

Micki Ann Harris is the Director of Spiritual Formation at the Chattanooga House of Prayer.

Grounded & Well-Founded: Building a Life of Grace & Rest

Busy and frenetic. That is how many of us would describe our day-to-day lives. We are carried along by our obligations and interruptions. There are times we attempt to pause: for rest, for relationships, or to hear the voice of Jesus, but those moments seem to slip through our fingers before we know it. It's not uncommon for us to feel thin and worn around the edges. We wonder: is this all there is for us?

This is a class that is aimed at asking the question of how we can build our lives into rhythms and habits that allow us to live into the fullness of the life that Jesus has for us. What are simple and concrete steps we can take in our day-to-day lives to find a still point in the middle of the pace of life? What are rhythms that we can embrace that can help us keep in step with the Holy Spirit? We won't just ask these questions over these four weeks — we'll try to live in a different way together. You will be invited to adopt some patterns of life that may seem new, and perhaps even unusual, that could for a time change the ways in which you pray (kneeling), eat (with others), use personal technology (less), and spend your time (Sabbath). If you want more than a theoretical discussion about life in the modern age but instead want to actually take Jesus' easy yoke on your shoulders, please join us.

Carter Newbold & Joey Sherrard

*Note: Participants in this class would benefit from having a copy of the book *The Common Rule*. We will have a handful of copies available for purchase for \$14, cash or check, at our first two sessions.*

Honest Evangelism: How to Talk About Jesus Even When It's Tough

I was a junior in college and new to the Christian faith when the guy leading my small group told us that we were going to walk around campus talking to strangers about Jesus. He might as well have told me that we were going to jump off tall buildings naked. I was terrified both about not knowing what to say and about what my 'normal' friends would think as they saw me doing this!

Maybe the thought of evangelism stirs up equally uncomfortable thoughts in your mind. But the Bible does not paint talking about Jesus as an option (alongside of the other, much better option, which is a private faith). While the faithful Christian does not always engage in the cold call evangelism described above, the faithful Christian loves Jesus and people enough to speak about the gospel with anyone, even when doing so carries relational risk.

During these four weeks we will give equal attention to the what, why and how of biblical evangelism, all towards the goal of faithfully loving of our neighbors and mountain. Fair warning: This seminar is being led by a man who still feels like talking to certain people in his life about Jesus is scarier and potentially more humiliating than jumping off buildings naked. Don't expect formulaic answers and jaw-dropping wisdom about how to 'get your neighbor saved'; do come ready to think about how we can grow together in the mission God has for us.

Scott Bowen

Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability

Quarter 1 & 2

When the church attempts to function without all of its parts, the body of Christ becomes disabled. Same Lake Different Boat is a transformational work—designed to renew our minds to think biblically about disability in order that our lives, our relationships, and our congregations might wholly reflect Christ.

This study will encourage and support family caregivers. It will cast a vision for church leadership to follow Christ's example of interaction with caregivers and those with disabilities. It will also build up and equip lay leaders within the church to more effectively reach those inside the church and within the community. As the various groups come together, conversations are facilitated that might never have started otherwise!

Lisa Mattheiss of Lifeline Ministries & Embrace Ministry Leaders

This study will use the book Same Lake, Different Boat by Stephanie Hubach and will take place during Equip Quarters 1 & 2. Books will be available for purchase for \$10.