

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

What do you think about when you hear the word “fellowship” at church? Maybe it is hanging out in the foyer for a bit after the service getting caught up on the events of the week. Possibly your thoughts turn to sharing a meal together at someone’s house and getting to know them and their family a little bit better. Or maybe you are thinking “pot-luck” dinners and fried chicken after the service. While all of things are good and I readily admit that I enjoy all of them (especially the fried chicken part!), they are just a small part of what true, biblical fellowship is all about.

Over forty years ago Bruce Larson wrote, “The neighborhood bar is possibly the best counterfeit there is to the fellowship Christ wants to give to His Church. It’s an imitation, dispensing liquor instead of grace, escape rather than reality. But it is a permissive, accepting, and inclusive fellowship. The bar flourishes not because most people are alcoholics, but because God has put into the human heart the desire to know and be known, to love, and be loved, and so many seek a counterfeit at the price of a few beers.” People are longing for true biblical fellowship, but unfortunately they are content to settle for inadequate imitations. Whether we know it or not, or even admit it or not, we long to live life in relationships with others.

The word “fellowship” in the New Testament comes from the Greek word group koinonia. While this word can be translated in a few different ways and it carries various nuances to it, it generally means “a relationship characterized by sharing in a close partnership” or “an association involving close mutual relations and involvement.” I like to think of it simply as sharing life together.

But our fellowship with one another is rooted and grounded in our fellowship with God in Jesus. In Galatians 3:26 the Apostle Paul writes, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” We “receive the adoption as sons” into the family of God through trusting in Jesus Christ to save us from our sins (Galatians 4:5). Because Jesus has saved us from our sins we are now brought into a new relationship with God where we can now relate to Him as Father (Galatians 4:6-7). And this new relationship with God also brings us into a new relationship with other followers of Jesus Christ.

The new relationship we have with each other springs from and flows out of our new relationship we have with God through Christ. That is why John wrote in 1 John 1:3, “We proclaim to you what we

have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” Our fellowship with one another is derived from our fellowship with God through Christ; that is the common bond that we have that unites us.

John MacArthur comments on this fact and writes, “Anybody in fellowship with Jesus Christ is also in fellowship with anybody else in fellowship with Jesus Christ. This is our common ground. It is not social, economic, intellectual, cosmetic, or anything else superficial. Our common ground is that we possess a common eternal life and are children in the same family.” No other human

κοινωνία

relationship compares to the relationship that we have with fellow believers in Christ because our bond is Jesus Himself. So biblical fellowship occurs when I am living out my relationship

with Jesus in relationships with other of Jesus’ followers.

But authentic New Testament fellowship does not happen automatically. Rather, it comes when we actively seek relationships within the Body of Christ where we can love one another (John 13:34), bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2), pray for and confess sins to one another (James 5:16), encourage and build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to one another (Ephesians 4:32), be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10), rejoice and weep with one another (Romans 12:15), and through love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).

But here is the catch with all of these “one anothers” of the New Testament: they cause us to be focused on others at the expense of self. Fellowship within the church flourishes when we have a heart to love and serve others and when we actively seek ways to live life together with them for their benefit.

If it were possible for us to live the Christian life in isolation from other believers then the Lord Jesus would not have established the church and the Spirit of God would have never inspired the writers of the New Testament to include so many things we need to do in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. But they did, because we need the church and we need one another. And when the church ministers to one another as it is called to do then we experience true biblical fellowship, true koinonia, and God is glorified and we are blessed.

† Pastor Matt

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Navigator PDF

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Kids, read about God calling a young boy to serve Him in 1 Samuel 3:1-20, then see if you can find the words or phrase from the story. I hope you are having a great summer!

SAMUEL IS CALLED (1 SAMUEL 3:1-20)

G F G M G X W W V S C P W O T
 M M S B L W P R O P H E T B Q
 B S N M O E E H C Q J U Q H H
 P T R R I O A Q A V D R O L A
 M G D A D N L R L P W T T F M
 W S B B E S I I S B Y N I V M
 N E E L I H L S O I J D T I T
 G Y R O P L V E T Q T R A O T
 R C M H H K D L U E N A L N D
 B G A S K E D H Z M R Z B H D
 Y M O L S W R T M J A E Z I Q
 K Q J S L V Z E F I A S D U C
 P H Q R P E Z Y I C S E Z A U
 U V S V P J D O M A L M N F J
 Y V P N R X O A Q T M D M F M

CALLED ISRAEL PROPHET HEARS
ELI LORD SAMUEL MINISTERED
WORDS HERE I AM

Children's Ministries: Kids 4 Truth Wednesday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:45pm (on summer break)
Sunday School 9:15am-10:20am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 worship service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY



JOHN 4:13-14

Summer is flying by! The stores have had their "back to school" items set up for a few weeks already. All that to say, your lives are going to be much busier (if that's possible). With school, homework, extra-curricular activities, friends and family, finding time for God sometimes seems like it is next to impossible. For some reason, when things get hectic, the first thing we scrap is the thing we need the most, our time alone with God. So, just like you schedule time for all of the things in which you are involved, it is important to schedule some time for God as well. If you are a morning person, find some time to be alone before your day starts to read your Bible and pray. (Mark 1:35-And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He (Jesus) departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed.) Maybe night is more your opportunity to focus and you can spend some time before you go to bed (hint: don't read or pray in bed or most likely you'll wake up wondering why a page from your Bible is stuck to your face). (Psalm 63:6-when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night.) Whenever works for you, just make sure that you don't neglect your time with God. You'll find that taking time for God will help you deal with all the other things that are pulling at your attention. Also, habits that you form now are much more likely to stay with you when you are older. **Have a great remainder of your summer!**

August 7-9th Sonfest

We will be leaving the church at 12:30 on Friday and will return to church Sunday afternoon.

August 19th Activity Night 6:30- 9:30



Meet John Doherty

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in San Francisco and raised in Northern California.

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

My dad, my friend Tom, and various pastors.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

Martin Luther said that Romans was the most important book, and I agree.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

My favorite authors are Watchman Nee, C.S. Lewis, and Steve Brown.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

Meat, potatoes, chocolate, and more chocolate.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

John. He was known for His love for Jesus.

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

San Quentin, Hong Kong, Philippines, and Japan.

How did you come to know Christ?

Jesus came to me one night in my room and asked me to give Him my whole life. By His grace, I did.

Salvation is a miracle from God. It cost Jesus everything to purchase it, it costs us the same to receive it. Total surrender (repentance) is required. It usually comes at a time in our lives when we're down and out. Some people looked at me and didn't pray for me because they felt that I didn't deserve salvation, but God's mercy and grace extends beyond what people can see with their eyes.

He truly came to seek and save that which was lost. To Him be all praise and glory! Realizing His mercy and grace causes us to live each day in wonder, amazement, and thankfulness.

Consider getting a bright start to your Tuesdays and Thursdays!

Come to the Bible Study at the Jolly Bean at 6:00 am



www.GREATINTERNETSITES.com

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2



Recommendations from the Logan household:

Seeds Family Worship (seedsfamilyworship.net)

You can listen to their albums on-line. It is Scripture put to music. I have learned over 20 verses without even trying!

Blue Letter Bible (blueletterbible.org)

Great commentaries, word searches, audio tracks and devotionals.

Answers In Genesis (answersingenesis.org)

Great information on the world from a biblical perspective.

Calvary Chapel in Madison, Wisconsin (calvarychapelmadison.org)

Awesome Bible teacher!

Recommendations from the Bickel household:

Wholesome Words (wholesomewords.org)

Daily Scriptures, Christian biographies, missionary information, fun stuff for families and children.

Bible Gateway (biblegateway.com)

Online searchable Bible, topical search, study tools

Evidence for God from Science (godandscience.org)

Wealth of information on evidence of God in science and creation

Recommendations from the Boyd household:

Desiring God (desiringgod.org)

This site is a ministry of John Piper that contains many free resources that would benefit anyone in their Christian walk. I usually check the Desiring God blog every few days to be challenged and encouraged in my faith. Many of Piper's books and all of his sermons are available online for free.

Between Two Worlds (theologica.blogspot.com)

This is the website of Justin Taylor who is an editor for Crossway books and served as an editor for the ESV Study Bible project. He deals with theological issues that affect the church today as well as addressing political and cultural issues from a decidedly biblical worldview.

Challies Dot Com...Informing the Reforming (challies.com)

The writing of Tim Challies of Canada. Challies addresses theological issues with discernment and biblical insight and is an engaging writer. On his site he regularly reviews new books and studies on-line through old classics (especially from the Puritans). He also contributes to Discerning Reader (discerningreader.com) which is a great and trusted online resource for book reviews.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

9:15 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday Services

www.northridge.org
314 West Ave J
Jerome, ID 83338



Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



Search and Rescue for the lost

For the last seven months, every Thursday evening each week, men from NorthRidge Fellowship have gone to the Jerome County Jail to minister to the inmates there. We get to the jail at 7:00 and are usually out by 10:00. After taking out our cell phones and wallets and placing them in the lockers provided and being checked with a metal detector and then having our things searched, the guards take us to the library. We sit on the floor with the inmates speaking to two or three groups of inmates each night with as many as twenty-five men attending the Bible studies.

Our routine is generally the same each Thursday evening: we greet the guys we know and introduce ourselves to the new inmates. We then take prayer requests which are usually filled with upcoming court dates, concern for their families that have been separated due to their incarceration, and the distress of impending deportations and transfers from county jail to prison. After that we usually sing two or three songs, with the favorite being “River of Life” which in reference to Jesus sings “Opens prison doors; sets the captives free” (something about singing those lines from inside a closed jail cell tends to bring them to life!).

We bring in a paper grocery bag full of New Testaments and distribute them to anyone who desires one saying, “The only catch is that you have to read it.” Praise God, more often than not they do. We then have our Bible study which is usually from one of the four Gospels, but always includes a clear presentation of the Gospel message of faith in Jesus

Christ alone for salvation. After about forty-five minutes or so we quickly close in prayer as the guards come and take the inmates back to their cells.

Outside the jail there is a little waiting room with two benches in it where we come, sign in, and wait for the guards to round up the inmates that want to go to “church” while we just sit in the waiting room until they escort us in. On one Thursday evening we were sitting and waiting when many other people began to come into the waiting room (which is not common; it is usually just us). As we overheard their conversations we learned that they were waiting to have a meeting as they were all part of the search and rescue team for this area.

After they left the waiting room to go to their meeting I turned to John and said, “We are the search and rescue team because Jesus is the ultimate searcher and He is the ultimate rescuer.” It is Jesus who said He has come to seek and to save (to search and to rescue) that which was lost (Luke 19:10) and we have seen Him do just that at the Jerome County Jail.

Please pray for this ministry every Thursday evening at 7:00. Pray for the inmates: that they would attend the Bible study, that their families would be cared for while they are away, that we can build strong relationships with them, and that God would open their hearts to the truth of the Good News of Jesus that “sets the captives free”!
Pastor Matt

AUGUST ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN, we are studying *God As He Longs For You To See Him* by Chip Ingram at the LEAD Bible study. Bring a friend and come eat lunch at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls with your NRF brothers. We meet **every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Friday, August 14 the ladies will be enjoying an evening at NorthRidge while the men and children plan to meet at Malad Gorge for an evening of fun. Ladies, bring a favorite dish to share and meet at the church at 6:00 pm. Men, bring the kiddos and plan to have an exciting evening at Malad Gorge starting at 6:30 pm.

Parable Players—Don't miss your first practice! Sunday, August 23 at 12:00 pm.

Community Service Opportunity! You can help with Feed The Children at St. Jerome's Catholic Church. We will be preparing, serving, and cleaning up—this is a great opportunity to serve! **August 10-21**, Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact Win Mobley for more information. Sign up in the foyer.

Contact Robert Kohler at 324-3545 or Candy Myhre at 644-6421 if you know of community service needs that NorthRidge can help with.

HEY KIDS! Memorize Psalm 56:11. Recite it to Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

Friday, August 14th

Two Great Events!

At The Same Time!

It's Exciting!

It's Thrilling!

You Too Are Invited!

Ladies Potluck and Game Night

6:00 pm at NorthRidge

Food, games, fellowship and fun!

Dad and Kid's Night

6:30 pm at Malad Gorge State Park

Dinner and a great time with dad!



NorthRidge Parable Players Drama Troupe

Exit stage right! Coming soon to NorthRidge Fellowship will be the Parable Players. This new drama troupe will feature youth, ages 7 and up, in a fun ministry that is sure to have an impact for Christ.

These young actors will present skits on a variety of topics related to our Christian walk. Some skits will be clear, with a message that is easy to understand. Other skits however, will require some thinking and interpretation. Along with the skits will be Scripture recitations and opportunities for young people to share their faith.

Anyone interested can pick up an application in the church lobby or contact Brian or Cherrynn Bizik at 404-5338 or brianbizik@yahoo.com.

First practice is set for Sunday, August 23, 2009 at noon (right after church, lunch provided). Practices should be over by 2:00 PM.

Please pray for this new ministry and **share the news of the Parable Players with anyone who might want to join.**

The Hope of

The helmets referred to in the Bible are for protection in mortal battle. A blow to the head with a mace or a bludgeon would crush your skull and kill you.

So when Paul says that we should put on “for a helmet the hope of salvation” he means that there are blows that come to our spiritual life that could destroy us, if we were not protected by the hope of salvation.

The hope of salvation—that we will not perish but obtain eternal life in the presence of Christ—absorbs the blow and keeps it from killing us. Blows still come in war and in life. Helmets don't prevent blows. They just prevent them from destroying us.

One of my clearest experiences of how this works was in December, 2005. The urologist said there was an irregularity in the prostate. He would like to do a biopsy. When? Right now. I'll be back in a few minutes with the instrument. You can wait on that table.

In those ten minutes of his absence I felt a blow. He thinks I have cancer. He wants to do the biopsy instantly. As the blow descended on my head, the Lord positioned my helmet with loving firmness so that it wouldn't fly off.

This is the “hope of salvation” that he gave me: “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him” (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10).

He brought this text to my mind as I sat on the table awaiting the biopsy. It did its work. It fixed hope on my head. It put brass between me and the blow.

I didn't notice till later that the “for” at the beginning of the promise in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (“For God has not destined us for wrath...”), was connected to the helmet of 1 Thessalonians 5:8: “...having put on for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation.”

In retrospect, God covered my head with the promise that this blow was not his wrath. He positioned the helmet of hope perfectly without my even thinking of helmets. I simply thought: This is not wrath; and if I live, I live with Christ, and if I die, I also live with Christ. With that he covered my head.

So go to the arsenal of God's word and get your armor. The blows are going to come. Without a helmet they will crush your skull. God has a helmet of hope fitted for your head. Put it on.

By John Piper. © Desiring God. Website: desiringGod.org

Salvation