

# Stepping Out

FBC's Fall Focus: "SHARE Plan"

Week of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## Fall Focus Update

We are now at the midpoint of our Fall Focus. This week FBC is unveiling its SHARE Plan, a bold initiative designed to move every FBC group out into our neighborhoods and communities in the name of Christ. Our ambition is that every small group will plan a Kingdom project that is energized by the same compassion and love that moved Christ to action. We are calling them Kingdom projects because each project will reflect some aspect of Christ's coming Kingdom; a place marked by security, health, abundance, rich relationships, and equity.

We are also recommending an inspirational YouTube video called, "Living on the Front Porch." You can find it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRGac7eHKgc>.

May God bless your study of his Word as you interact with the Scrolls and consider how you can be a part of what God is doing in this world.

### Monday – Security

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."*

Jesus, Matthew 5:17

1. Please read Revelation 21:3-5. How do these verses speak of your security through all eternity? Given this dramatic picture in Rev. 21, how will God deal with evil in the new heavens and the new earth?
2. Under the Old Covenant between God and his people in Leviticus 26:3-13, what did God promise in exchange for obedience?
3. How does the New Covenant between God and his people, noted in Hebrews 8:6-13, support the picture of eternal security in Revelation 21?

**Putting it Into Practice:** Anytime you do something that enhances a person's sense of safety and security (especially for the less fortunate and oppressed), you are valuing what God values. And you are casting light on the reality of Christ's kingdom. Is there someone you know who you or your small group can help in this way?

### Tuesday – Health

*"But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."* A Roman military officer, Matthew 8:8

1. Please read Philippians 3:20-21 and Romans 8:23. What can you look forward to in your physical life with Jesus throughout eternity?
2. What authority does the Centurion recognize in Luke 7:1-10? What did the Centurion do with his faith? What does this passage reveal about Christ and his interest in the health and well-being of others?
3. Now look at Psalm 107:17-20, a passage most of Jesus' fellow Jews would know. What significance would the episode with the Centurion have to those who watched Jesus interact with him?

**Making it Personal:** Someday, in the new heaven and earth, we will enjoy perfect health. Beyond physical health, the well-being he will provide will extend to every part of our being (emotional, psychological, social, etc.). Take time to tell the Lord what that means to you. Pray for someone who needs prayer in this regard.

### Wednesday – Abundance

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Jesus, Matthew 6:33

1. Please read Micah 4:4. How does Micah 4:4 serve as a picture of abundance? What modern equivalent can you think of for this imagery?

**Text Insight:** The ability to sit peacefully under a fig tree and grapevine was significant to Israel, since their land was often passed through by armies from Egypt heading north to fight Assyria or Babylon, or vice versa.

2. How does Paul compare our present situation to our eternal existence in Romans 8:18-21?
3. Now look at Matthew 6:25-34. What does this passage say about abundance and God's generosity?

**Putting it into Practice:** Every blessing in your life is evidence of God's deep generosity. How can you follow in his steps and demonstrate his generosity today?

### Thursday – Relationships

*"If the LORD had not been on our side ... the raging waters would have swept us away."* Psalm 124:1-5

1. Please read Zechariah 3:10. According to this verse, what are we to do with the blessings of Micah 4:4?
2. What warning do you find in Ecclesiastes 4:7-12? How does this passage encourage you in your relationships?
3. Read Psalm 122:1 and Hebrews 10:19-25 and describe how following these examples will lead to sharing – and increase the ability to enjoy – God's blessings.

**Making it Personal:** When has someone shared with you some type of blessing they received from God? What can you do today to share God's blessings in your life with others?

### Friday – Equity

*"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* Micah 6:8

1. Please read Isaiah 9:7. What type of justice can we expect in Jesus' eternal kingdom?
2. What does the imagery in Isaiah 11:6-9 tell you about eternal life with Jesus? What is one underlying basis for that life according to verse 9?

**Text Insight:** "Knowledge of God" is an Old Testament phrase that describes being in a relationship with God.

3. What does God promise in Revelations 22:1-2? How do you feel knowing that God's people will come from every nation, every ethnic group? What does this tell you about your own place in God's kingdom?

**Making it Personal:** Are you aware of some injustice in the world. Can you pray for the situation? Can you or your small group contribute in some way that brings justice and equity to it?

**For the Weekend:** Read Romans 11:33-36. How do this week's topics (security, health, abundance, relationship and equity) display God's incomprehensible wisdom and knowledge v.33-34)? What does it mean to you that God knows you can never repay him for everything he has done for you (v.35-36)?