

# STUDY LEADER NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOLIVAR

## WHAT IS IN A NAME?

While on vacation over the holidays, I had the opportunity to “sit and visit” with a few friends around Bolivar. As we “visited” about family, friends and about First Baptist, more than one person asked questions about name changes. So let me enlist you to help educate our church on one of the name changes that have happened over the past year. Keep in mind, that we desire clarity as we invite our friends and neighbors to participate in our community of faith.

What happened to Sunday School and what is Core Discipleship Groups were common questions. Sunday School has long been the key growth strategy for churches like ours. It was a place where we gathered in small groups to study God’s word together, where we could involve people in fellowship and friendship, where we could quickly minister to each other, and was the place we could invite our friends to join us. It was the place where we wanted everyone to belong. It was where we looked for leadership to keep growing new small groups to make more room for our ever expanding community of faith. A good Sunday School class was the friendly face of FBC where people had the opportunity to connect, grow, serve and share together. Then we had need to allow groups to do the same thing during the week and we gave them a different name for the same basic mission. This muddied the water a bit to be honest.

Now we are using the name Core Discipleship Group to try to clearly communicate that this is the basic small group that we hope everyone will find a place to belong. A group where they can study God’s Word, be involved in fellowship with friends, minister to one another and have a place to invite and involve friends in joining them on the journey of knowing and growing in Christ. Wait that sounds like good small group Sunday School. Yes it does for a generation. It also sounds like good small group ministry for a younger generation. Core Discipleship Groups is the same as good small group Sunday School and good small group ministry. It’s the core discipling group at FBC that we want everyone to be involved in regardless of day or time.

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### Special points of interest:

- \* [WWW.FBCBOLIVAR.ORG](http://WWW.FBCBOLIVAR.ORG)
- \* [WWW.LIFEWAY.COM](http://WWW.LIFEWAY.COM)
- \* [WWW.YOUVERSION.COM](http://WWW.YOUVERSION.COM)
- \* [WWW.MYBIBLESTUDY.COM](http://WWW.MYBIBLESTUDY.COM)

## FBC University CATALOG

The Spring FBC University Catalog is available this Sunday and will be on the church website next week. At last count the DMT, working with leaders in our church have twenty short term studies ready for you to choose from in multiple areas of spiritual growth.

Each FBC University class is offered to build upon and add to the discipleship experience of being in a Core Discipleship Group. Which means as a leader you might want to encourage members of your class to join a short term FBCU class or your class might want to sign up as a group for one of the classes.

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## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Discipleship Ministry Team has been working to strengthen our Core Discipleship Groups (ongoing Sunday and Weekday groups), our FBC University (short term group studies) and our new member assimilation process. There is even more planned for 2012.

Which brings me to the issues of leadership. To be honest we just need more of it. I pray every Core Discipleship Group (Sunday morning and weekday) has a plan to enlist a

co-leader to disciple in leadership for your group. We need members who are willing to pray and learn about leading a FBC University small group. Everyone needs to take the simple steps of serving as class greeter, new member assimilator and friendly guest contactor. Reaching a significant number of new people for Christ in 2012 will be a prayer team effort involving new faces in the discipleship process.

I hope you are praying about helping new faces move into discipleship as a leader in 2012.

### Online Training for Core Discipleship Leaders

Have you ever wanted to know how you could get a directory of your class? Maybe you want to send a regular email to group members to help them be better prepared for Bible Study when your Core Discipleship group meets? Maybe you need to call a parent and need a phone number? Maybe you want to correct a group members email address or add a cell phone to the record? Maybe you forgot and took the roll sheet home and need to turn in attendance?

If you would like to know how to do these things and more from the comfort of your home or when your class meets this training session is for you. However it is limited to 10 people. If you would like to sign up for this training session please email Larry at [lstehr@fcbolivar.org](mailto:lstehr@fcbolivar.org)

The training is scheduled for January 17 at 7:00 pm and should last about 1 hour. Location is at your computer. When you sign up you will receive information on how to join the meeting from your computer.

### Study Leader News to Go Digital

Next week we will begin placing copies of the Study Leader News online at the church website and the two feature articles will be going on to Larry's blog so that you can be involved in a discussion about the feature article or teaching article. Blog link will be on the church website when the article goes live.