

October 29, 2008

Friends,

On Vision Sunday, October 26, I began a message series entitled *Engage: Loving, Learning and Living*.

The series premise is that we are called to engage in God's mission by loving Him and people, learning how to be fully devoted followers of Jesus and living as if He were in our shoes. The reality is that engaging in God's mission *is risky, radical, oft times judged as ridiculous, but always revolutionary*.

We studied the early days of Jesus' ministry as He went where people were to share His message of Good News. He went to the synagogue, to the streets, and even sat in a boat on the Sea of Galilee to create environments where people were challenged to engage in a relationship with Him and then be about His mission.

Our vision is His mission. We will, like Jesus, continue to create environments where we can *share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people and lead them into a fully devoted relationship with Him*. We will continue to pour our energies into current ministries and create fresh approaches too.

We do not know if it was a common practice for Rabbis to teach from a boat. We do know Jesus was not hindered in engaging in practices that were risky, radical, or even judged as ridiculous.

We learned from Jesus' approach to ministry that creative options lead to opportunities for obedience.

I shared on Sunday that our specific vision for 2009 is to add emphasis to three key areas: discipleship, fellowship and outreach. We will accomplish these through upgrading the foyer, kitchen, and family center, creating more Bible study opportunities, developing group life, and establishing key events where we can confidently invite our friends and families.

One key initiative for 2009 will begin on Sunday, January 11th, when we begin a back to back worship service format where worship and Bible study will be available during both worship services for adults and children. On January 11, 2009 our worship services will begin at 9:00 am and 10:45 am. Each service will last 70 minutes.

Our decision to change to this format was driven by three key realities. First, within the current structure, we have no space for growth in adult classes at the 9 o'clock hour. Second, since the 8:00 am service does not include children's ministry and is too early for most families, moving the 8:00 am service to 9:00 am opens up more ministry options and increases our "invite-ability" potential.

Let me say this before going on...

We realize this change impacts how some go about their Sunday routine. I personally thank those who have already approached me with your cares and support. I can assure you that the adjustments you are making are kingdom worthy and most appreciated. I believe this change will be a major factor in our accomplishing our vision.

Last, we desire to continue to offer two worship format options. Our two services will be similar, but not the same. Our 9:00 am service will be “unplugged” in its approach to music. Instrumentation will be acoustic in nature, gentle, and unassuming. The 10:45 pm service will continue its “plugged” approach with instrumentation that is stronger in electronics and percussion. Each service will include songs of heritage and new songs, scripture reading, the Lord’s Supper, prayer and the various seasonal or optional elements of our choirs, hand-bells, specials, dramas, etc.

So, beginning on January 11, 2009 the Sunday morning schedule will be:

9:00 am	Worship, Bible Studies, and Children’s Sunday School
10:10 -10:40 am	Transition & Fellowship Time
10:45 am	Worship, Bible Studies, and Children’s BLAST Ministry

Children’s Ministry (Nursery – 5th grade) will continue to be available from 9:00 am to 11:55 am. Adults are encouraged to utilize the transition time to get to class or worship and get to know one another while enjoying refreshments.



Thank you for praying for God to shed light on His will for FCC, to strengthen us as we act on His will for us and that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Mark your calendars now for January 11th and invite a friend!

God Bless You,

Tom Caffery
Senior Minister

P.S. Please contact me by email at tcaffery@fccabq.org or phone the church at 294-0630 if you have any questions or comments.

P.P.S. If you missed Sunday’s worship, you may listen to my entire Vision Sunday message on the church website, www.fccabq.org, or request a copy on CD from the church office.