



The Courier

First EC Church
369 E. Woodsdale Ave.
Akron, OH 44301

January-February 2012
330-773-2128

100 Bible Reading Plan Underway

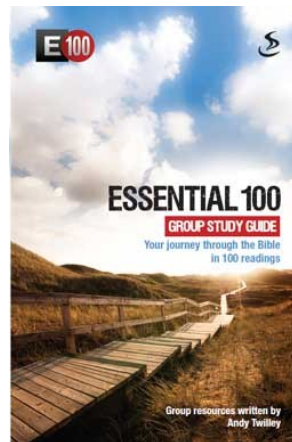
Reading through the entire Bible can be a daunting proposition. Often what begins with the best of intentions ends in frustration somewhere in Leviticus.



How does reading 3-6 chapters a week sound? By committing to setting aside 15-20 minutes twice a week anyone can finish Scripture Union's E100 program. Their edi-

tors have selected 100 Scripture passages, 50 in each of the Old and New Testaments which, when completed, will give all of us a better understanding of the story of the Bible. Books, book markers, and punch-out cards are available at church to help all of us keep on target. We have also included each week's readings on Mondays and Fridays of the enclosed monthly church calendars.

The pastor will be preaching from some part of the selected readings each week. Our



Sunday School classes will also give you time too share what God has shown you as you read along with us. It is not too late to get in on the fun. Join us each Sunday at 9:30 for Sunday School & 10:30 for Worship.

Discipleship Opportunities

Are you struggling growing in the Lord? Could a friend to walk with you be just what you need?

We are looking for at least five people who will commit to a new 12-week study called, "Your

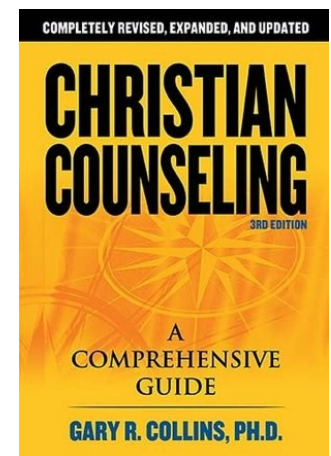
New Life in Christ." A trained lay-leader will meet with you weekly guiding you through the Scriptures helping fill in the missing pieces we all experience. Why not take responsibility for your own growth in the Lord in 2012? God

wants to share more of Himself with all of us. A new friend might just be our "Jesus with skin on," the extra help we all need.

Contact Pastor Scott if you are interested.

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LEADERSHIP**CONTACT**

*Connecting Church Leaders
to the Future . . .*

Winter 2012 Classes
begin Monday, January 9,
at 7:00 p.m.

"...a compelling invitation to understand, embrace, and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives"

*Francis Chan's book,
"Forgotten God"*

How to Be a People Helper

Many of us have friends who are hurting and we wish we could do more to help them. Somewhere between the "want to" and the "do" we let something stop us. Maybe it is our insecurities or our doubts. Maybe we just don't know how to help.

Pastor Scott will be leading a 7-week program

concentrating exclusively on how we can help those the Lord directs us to help.

We will focus on listening, knowledge, and question-asking skills as we open ourselves to new ways of making a difference for Jesus.

These classes take work.

There are books to read and assignments to carry out. But if you really want to make more of a difference in the lives of others, why not give this class a try?

The class meets approximately every other Monday. See the calendar for specific details. A syllabus is available from Pastor Scott.

Donna B. leads growing Women's Ministry

About every three weeks Donna B. meets with women who are searching for the heart of God and listening to each other's hearts.

2012 will begin with a study centered around Francis Chan's book,

"Forgotten God." A short video begins a night of listening, sharing, and caring designed specifically for the needs of women. An important time of prayer and support is also included.

Sometimes this group

meets in various homes, but usually it meets in the "lower room" of our Church on Thursday night at 7p.m. Check the calendar for the specific nights. You do not have to attend every session to participate. Join in as you can.

Music Ministry Opportunities



"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord"
Ephesians 5:19

Rob C., our board chairman & church pianist/organist, will be heading up an effort to update and greatly improve our Sunday morning worship service's music.

We are looking for musicians who might be interested in being part of a worship group of some undecided composition.

We are looking for those who might enjoy singing in the adult choir or

helping in worship.

Your interest, skills, and involvement will help shape the direction we take. Contact Rob at your earliest convenience .

A Great Place for Teens

Everybody needs to feel special, to know that someone cares enough to really try to understand.

Jessica J. and Mary H. are two young ladies who know how to help teens grow in the Lord. Together with pastoral help, they provide the kind of direction teens need.

Right now, our teens are scheduled to attend "Winter Jam," an afternoon into evening time of listening to live Christian music, to join with our Cottage Grove E.C. Church for a Super Bowl party celebration, and work together on ministry opportunities inside and outside our church walls.

Our regular Youth Ministry time is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Sunday nights. This time does change when special events are planned. A special youth calendar of events is available.

Come on Sunday nights and learn how much of a difference the Holy Spirit and Christian friends can make in your lives.



This is just one of many Youth Ministry opportunities.

Church-wide Social Events

10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings is not the easiest place to get to know a lot of different people. That hour is designed to worship God and hear Him speak. However, we do try to offer some special event each month specifically designed to help meet new friends.

January will feature a card game night at the church on the 28th, a Saturday.

On Saturday, February 18, we plan to have a Valentine's Day banquet in the Fellowship Hall and play some variation of

the Newlywed Game.

Our social committee can use your help planning these events. You can help on one event or with many of them. Speak to Pastor Scott if you are interested.

...We are looking for people who know how to have a good time and help others do the same...

—the Social Committee

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday January 29th

Once every year, we invite everyone to gather together for a business meeting. At this meeting we accept the budget as prepared by the Official Board and the church Treasurer, we elect someone to church positions that expire in the

given year, and hear reports from the various parts of our Official Board.

While only church members are allowed votes, anyone is allowed to voice their opinion.

This year we will elect two Trustees, one Class Leader, our Sunday School Officers, and one extra person.

This meeting will follow the conclusion of the morning worship service.

