

10/22/2011

Dear Friends,

In a little over 3 months from now we will begin our journey through *40 Days in the Word*. No other habit can do more to transform your life and make you more like Jesus than to study and act upon God's Word. It is the fuel God provides His people so that we may *Love People to Christ*. To be a healthy disciple of Jesus, feeding on God's Word must be your first priority. Jesus called it "abiding." He said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine" (John 8:31 NASB).



One of the most exciting aspects of this journey is the opportunity to gather in small groups that will meet in homes for the six weeks of this big idea series. These groups will watch a weekly video teaching session, discover different ways to reflect on God's Word, and live the Word of God like you've never lived it before.

Our goal is to prepare 100 groups for 1,000 people to love, learn, and live the Word!

To accommodate 1,000 people, we are looking for 100 homes where groups can meet to go through this six-week Bible study together. **Will you consider leading a 40 Days group and open your home for this journey?** (Another option is to lead a group and find a friend who can host group meetings.)

Becoming a 40 Days leader—MADE SIMPLE:

You don't need to be a Bible scholar – All you have to do is turn on your DVD player!

You don't need to be a born leader – if you've never led a group discussion before and want to give it a try, the DVD gives coaching tips (called *leader lifters*), and the discussion guide gives you step-by-step instructions to follow. Additional training opportunities will also be provided by Craig Mattes, our Director of Small Group Ministry.

You don't need to have a decorator home – people aren't coming to look at your home or eat a big meal (although a few snacks wouldn't hurt!). People in our church want to connect with each other in a deeper way, and we need hosts who are willing to exercise the gift of hospitality and just provide a place.

You don't have to be a salesperson – we will use two ways to get people into your home: we will publish a list of Host Homes so that people can find a home in their area and sign up for your group, and we will give you invitation cards that you can give to your co-workers, neighbors, relatives and friends.

You don't have to be a church member – if you call Trinity your church home, then we would more than welcome your willingness to lead a group.

We are excited as we envision our entire congregation diving into God's Word together. By the end of our forty days together, the goal for Trinity is to help you...

- **Love the Word of God** like you've never loved it before
- **Learn the Word of God** like you've never learned it before
- **Live the Word of God** like you've never lived it before

The *40 Days in the Word* big idea teaching series will begin on January 14 and run for six weeks. Small group meetings will begin January 21 and run through late February (depending on when each group completes their 6th meeting). If you know or have interest in leading a 40 Days group, please complete the connect card found in our weekend worship bulletins anytime between October 22 and November 13.

Loving people to Christ with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Schulz".

Lead Pastor