

September

A Taste of What's Happening for Women

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Cleansing Stream 6:00-7:30 pm
4	5 Labor Day Church Closed	6	7 Cleansing Stream 7:00-8:30pm	8	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:00-10:00am Cleansing Stream 6:00-7:30pm
11	12	13	14 Cleansing Stream 7:00-8:30pm	15	16	17 KOI Mentoring 10:00am-12:00 Cleansing Stream 6:00-7:30pm
18	19	20	21 Cleansing Stream 7:00-8:30pm	22	23	24 Cleansing Stream 6:00-7:30pm
25	26	27	28 Cleansing Stream 7:00-8:30pm	29	30 Cleansing Stream Retreat 8:00pm	OCT 1 Cleansing Stream Retreat 7:00am

Southeast District Women's Conference

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Contact for more information

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THE SPICE

September 2011



The Upside Down School of Life

School's back in session, and students everywhere will press their noses into text books, listen (and hopefully not nap) to long lectures, and bemoan multiple-choice tests...all in pursuit of a good grade.

Of course, "A" is the best, and "C"...well, just average.

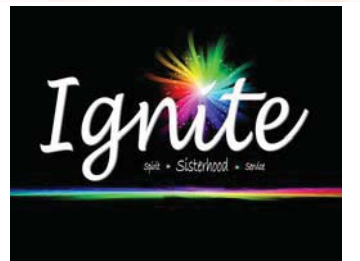
In Jesus' day it wasn't much different. In early adolescence the boys who were the "A" students would take an "entrance exam" to qualify to study with the rabbi. A large part of this consisted of repeating whole books of the Torah from memory! Those who did not pass returned to the trades of their fathers. Like fishing.

This was the accepted academic format—only the best and brightest were chosen to be disciples of the rabbi. But then Jesus went fishing with a bunch of "C" students, and the whole system was turned upside down!

Jesus was not impressed with intellectual gifts of knowledge. He was the first rabbi to do three things differently: First, *he went out* to find his followers instead of waiting for them to come to him. Second, *he showed them* instead of testing them. Who he was and what God could do. Third, *he chose them*, not based on their intellect, but on their hearts.

Jesus purposely chose those who had *failed* to meet the expectations of men to be his disciples. Simon Peter had a "C" on the report card of his life and admitted to an entire night of fishing without snagging one fish, yet Jesus knew he was destined to become "a fisher of people."

Yes, "C" may mean average to you and me but never to Jesus. He didn't pick the Ph.D.'s of his time to join his school of discipleship then, and he's still not impressed by how many Bible verses we can recite from memory now. He only asks three things of us: for us to let him into our boats when he shows up, to believe in the truth he reveals, and to follow where he leads. That's how we get an "A," like Simon Peter, in Jesus' upside down school of life.



THE WORD

"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."

—Luke 5:10-11

THINK ABOUT IT

How would you grade yourself on these?

1. Letting Jesus into the boat of your life.
2. Believing in the truth he reveals.
3. Listening and following where he leads.

How can you improve this month?

What Did She Say?

“Did you hear that great speaker last week? What did she say?”

How much could you tell your friend about what you heard? Chances are, not much. That’s because no matter how great the speaker is, our brains leak like a sieve when it comes to listening and learning. Here are the dismal statistics:

- Within 20 minutes, we forget 40%.
- After half a day, we’ve forgotten 60%.
- 90% of what we heard is lost after a week.

The good news is, an Indiana University study found there are better methods of learning than just listening to a speaker. They found that after a month, students remembered:

- 10% of what they heard
- 15% of what they saw
- 40% of what they discussed
- 80% of what they did
- 90% of what they taught.

Want to learn more about God? Faith? Scripture? The message in the numbers is clear: *Listen less, do more!*

Do We Achieve What We Believe?

“I just don’t think I’m smart enough...or good enough.”

Is it possible for these types of negative beliefs to hinder what we can achieve? Psychologists think they can. In one study, two groups of equally smart students were asked to answer difficult questions from the game Trivial Pursuit. Before the test, one group was instructed to think about and write down what it would mean to be a college professor. The other group was asked to sit and think about soccer “hooligans.”

What happened? The “professor” group got over 55% of the questions right; the “soccer” group only 42%. More extreme versions of this test have also demonstrated that people who are primed to think negative thoughts about themselves before an activity perform at significantly lower levels compared to those who are not. And those who think positive thoughts do much better!

Is this knowledge that what we believe influences what we achieve new? Not to God! The next time you face a tough challenge, take your own test. Think about Jesus’ words from John 14:12 first: “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works...” Try believing first, then be amazed at what you achieve!

Learn By Doing: A Bible Study to Remember

Romans 8:38-39 says that nothing can separate you from God’s love. Read the whole Scripture passage, and then do the following activity alone or in a group to *learn it*. Journal or discuss your answers to the questions.

1. Take a whole strawberry, and cut it in half from top to bottom.
 - What shape do you see on the inside?
 - How can a wounded heart hinder you from receiving God’s love?
2. Put the two halves of the strawberry back together using toothpicks, so the toothpicks form a cross in the middle of the strawberry. Read Romans 8:38-39 again.
 - How is the strawberry like your own heart?
 - How does God want to love you and heal your heart today?

Enjoy the strawberry, and remember God’s amazing and sweet love for you!



Media Morsels

Internet Resource Review

Internet Café Devotions

Need a cup of delicious morning inspiration to start your day?

Go online and get in line with God’s encouragement for your day by filling your cup with daily inspiration at the counter of Internet Café Devotions. At this friendly cyber café, the counter baristas serve up daily devotions seasoned with insight, humor, reflection, and caffeine-jolting wisdom from God’s Word.

It’s your daily cup of inspiration, poured for you by women just like you—women who seek to discover a deeper relationship with Jesus through their experience and sharing of God’s Word.

So come on in! Pull up a chair, and hold up your empty cup. Read, listen, learn, and share your comments. The inspiration is flowing, and the baristas are eager to meet you at internetcafedevoations.com.



Movie Review

Freedom Writers

Release Date: 2007
Genre: Biography, Drama
Runtime: 123 minutes
MPAA Rating: PG-13 for violent content, some thematic material and language.

“The best part of Ms. G’s class [at Wilson High] was how she’d start us on one of her off-the-wall activities, and suddenly we were all coming up with our own ideas. It was like we were teaching the class with her.”

Erin Gruwell, better known as “Ms. G” to her former students, was an amazing teacher. So remarkable that a book and, later, the movie *Freedom Writers* were produced to share her remarkable story with the world.

Talk about it:

- What was the “aha” experience that helped Erin become a successful teacher? Share an “aha” moment from your own life.
- How were Erin’s and the students’ failures turned into successes? How can you apply their experiences to your own life?
- How can you apply Erin’s teaching methods as you seek to inspire and encourage others in your family, workplace, and ministry?

