

rather than 'Home Group' to emphasise that church is a community of people loving each others. Church isn't a loose association of strangers. People will know we are Jesus' disciples in the way we love one another.

To love someone you need to get personal. And that takes time, regular time, caring for each other, praying for each other, sharing meals together, being there in the good times and the hard times. To love someone Jesus showed we need to get personal, he came in person, he has sent the person of the Holy Spirit to each of us. To be with each of us daily.

Home group might imply something we attend. Home Church

emphasises the life we live together; as we meet with our two supporters, as we meet in a group small enough for us to be real with each other. As we go together to worship Jesus in a large celebration time. Home Church is not an event we attend monthly, but a community we share life with, and get together regularly to pray for each other, to share what Jesus has been saying, and to help meet each other's physical needs.

If you're not part of a Home Church, ask Jesus to lead you to two other families and begin with a meal together. If you each bring something to

share; food, laughter, a word from Jesus, and a heart of love from Jesus, you'll be living the community life that Jesus is passionate about. And you can be sure when you're doing what Jesus is passionate about, he'll bless it.

But don't think that doesn't mean there will be times of wrestling. Jesus loves a good wrestle, just ask Israel!

Let us pray.
Jesus we want to be walking closely with you. Use this series to draw us closer to you and to develop healthy habits to get to know you better.

31 July 2011
WALKING WITH GOD—1



Today we begin a new series entitled; Walking with God. The inspiration is a book by John Eldredge called, Walking with God. Let's have a look at his introduction.

This introduction leaves me asking a simply question; does God want to communicate with me? Does God want to share life with me, allowing me to walk with him? Should we expect to be lead, to hear, to get thoughts, impressions, even dreams from God, leading us into a living, vibrant relationship? Can we expect that sort of relationship, or is Christianity about reading a book, and learning what Jesus said several thousand years ago, and putting what we've learnt into practice.

What do you think; is Christianity a relationship to be lived and enjoyed, or a set of rules to be learned and applied?

I'm sure we all would lean toward Christianity being a relationship to be lived. And a core aspect of any relationship is communication. I'm sure we'd all lean toward believing that Jesus wants to communicate with us, wants to be an ever present reality in our lives. Which is why he sent the Holy Spirit, so we could have clear, open lines of communication, direct with him. No middle-man needed.

In the Gospel reading for today we find Jesus out in the wilderness with a group of people. Which echoed where

God first lead his people, out of Egypt into the Wilderness. Where they couldn't fend for themselves, but they had to be totally reliant on him. Once again, God in the person of Jesus, is out in the wilderness, ready to feed his people as only he can.

We are also living a wilderness experience.

And like the Children of Israel out in the wilderness, we are totally reliant and can't feed ourselves.

In the wilderness God feed the Children of Israel with a daily supply of manna, and also he gave them water from a rock. God miraculously supplied their needs, but sadly it didn't produce an overwhelming sense of trust in the community.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' Disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples, who grow disciples...

More often than not they are whinging, complaining, wanting to go back to Egypt rather than forward with God.

Walking with God, as the name Israel indicates, can be a wrestle. Which is true of all communication, it takes effort, it takes time, as two people seek to build open and clear lines of communication.

In Jesus we have all we need for a healthy relationship with the Father. A relationship to be lived and enjoyed. A relationship where we are able to communicate with each other. Where we are able to hear and be lead by Jesus. Jesus certainly wants to engage in the wrestle of life, he's begun by sharing what's on his heart and soul making himself vulnerable, making himself knowable.

Jesus wants us to walk with him through the wilderness of this life so that we join him at home with the Father, continuing to enjoy life together, in a committed, open and honest relationship.

So today I've put together a 'Survival Kit' as a reminder – it's

Does God really want to talk with you?

not the be all and end all, it's a reminder – to help fire up your mind and soul to get in and wrestle with Jesus, discovering the joy of open and honest communication.

This week take the 'Learn to Listen' card and place it next to your credit card as a daily reminder to be open to hearing from Jesus. Each time you use your card why not ask Jesus what he thinks. Or ask a simply

question and be open to hear from Jesus, for there is nothing more certain than that Jesus wants you to be involved in his life. That's what we confess each time we remember that we are saved by faith and not works. Jesus wants to share his life with us, not as a chore but out of pure joy.

If you want to listen to a radio station you need to be tuned into its frequency. The

bible is God's gift to us so we can be tuned into his frequency. The Holy Spirit is able to use the bible to tune us into Jesus, and then we're tuned into hearing on God's wavelength.

So this week daily feed on Jesus' word, asking him what part of the bible to read, then reading it, jotting it down, reflecting on it and them most importantly asking; how this applies to U.

That's something only you can answer. Other people can help you understand what Jesus is saying in the bible, but nobody can answer how it applies to U. That's when it gets personal, and that's when I need to take a risk, being open and honest. Nobody else can do this part for me, I've got to get in the ring with Jesus and wrestle.

I find for me jotting down my thoughts helps me. Helps me listen and clarify what Jesus is saying.

In the Bible Jesus wants to be an open book to me, but if I don't open it, he'll stay a closed mystery. Once I open it and begin to seek to hear from Jesus, the next challenge is for me to be an open book to Jesus. Listening and revealing what's on my heart and soul.

To do this find two other people to partner you, and weekly get

together and share what you've been hearing.

That's the water bottle. How often do you need water? How often do you need support? Grab the water bottle and share what Jesus has been saying, then give each other a health check. That's the 'Building Character/

Ask simple questions.

Motivation Check'. Am I growing in my Christ-like nature or not, according to Jesus' mirror. I've used the Ten Commandments.

After a while you could use the 'Fruits of the Spirit', or the Lord's Prayer, or the Love Chapter in 1 Corinthians 13. Or you might like for a month simply to compare yourself to John 13:34; "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have

loved you, so you must love one another."

Then pour out your prayers for one another to Jesus. Especially praying for those people you love who are lost outside of Jesus' love. Pray for a passion to find the lost, just like Jesus. Pray for those on your heart.

Again this is something that only you can do, cause nobody else knows who is on your heart, and if I'm to pray, it's my prayer and not yours. Jesus has given each of us a voice so we can be open and honest with him, from the heart.

The remaining part of our 'Survival Kit' is the blanket to keep warm. In the wilderness we all need a blanket to keep us warm, especially in the cold of winter. The blanket Jesus has woven together is the love of his people reaching out to each other. I've given the label, 'Home Church'