

### THE GOSPEL CLASS

This preaching series is designed to communicate the beliefs and practices of The Church at Martinsburg. It also serves as the biblical overview of the foundation from which our theology and community springs. Content of *The Gospel Class* includes an overview of our church and our core values, with a doctrinal exploration of the Scriptures, God, Creation, Sin, Salvation, the Missional Church, Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts. This series explores basic, biblical theology and how this teaching plays out philosophically and practically in the way we embody the gospel to the neighborhood in which we live.

#### Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, challenged you, or ministered to you.
2. How do we become a part of the universal church? How do we become a part of the local church?
3. How does the Bible answer the question: "Why should a Christian be committed to a local church?" (Consider Eph. 5:25; Heb. 10:24-25; Eph. 4:11-12 & 1 Pet. 3:8)
4. What would you say to one who believes he/she can be an effective Christian without being connected with a fellowship of believers? What are the repercussions of "flying solo" as a Christian?
5. The Bible uses many metaphors to describe the church: family, bride, branches, olive tree, a field, a harvest, a priesthood, God's house, pillar & bulwark of truth, body of Christ, flock, etc. Which of these descriptions do you most identify with? Why? Which do you least identify with?
6. What does it mean to have "unity without uniformity"? In what ways does the church reveal its unity? In what ways does the church encourage diversity?

#### Living on Mission

1. What does it mean to you to be a part of God's family? How can you encourage others who fear commitment to a local church? Do you know anyone that needs this kind of encouragement?
2. What do you believe about the statement: "In the church, you are to become a provider, not a consumer." What are the ramifications of this mindset in the life of the local church? What would God say about your mindset...provider or consumer? Ask God to align your heart with His.
3. In what ways are you accountable to others for mutual spiritual growth? How is being a part of the local church encouraging you to find your unique place of service to Christ, both in the church and in your community? What do you need to change?

**A Word about Community Groups** - Gathering weekly for fellowship and accountability, study and prayer, good times and tears, Community Groups are an essential expression of our church's mission. At the heart of the Community Groups ministry is the desire to see a community of believers who worship Jesus, love one another, and embody the mission of The Church at Martinsburg to make disciples. God has called us to a continuous lifestyle of worship and relationship with Himself, which is cultivated and nurtured within the body of Christ. The Church is a people. It is a gift of God. At C@M, community groups are the place where discipleship and care takes place. It is where we encourage one another to be worshippers of our Lord. It is where the body becomes the body, loving, caring and challenging one another. As well, it is within community that we engage culture and incarnate Jesus in our city. We were created to worship Jesus in community in the Image of our Creator, who Himself exists in community. It is our desire to see every participant of C@M loved, cared for, and challenged within a thriving community. And it is our desire that our neighbors within this city are blessed and touched by the love of Jesus through the lives of our members.

### IMPORTANT DATES

02/05/12 Community Group Kick-off  
02/12/12 Church at Martinsburg Next Step  
03/18/12 Volunteer Banquet – NEW DATE

### NEXT STEPS WITH THE CHURCH AT MARTINSBURG – 2/12/12

Are you new to The Church at Martinsburg or do you simply want a bit more information about the church? Next Steps is your opportunity to meet our leaders, be given a chance to ask questions, acquaint yourself with our vision and learn everything you could possibly want to know about the church. You will also learn how to connect to our church through community groups, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Lunch will be provided during the event.

### 2011 YEAR-END GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements are available now! There are 2 ways to get your giving statement.

1. Log on to C@M Connect at [connect.martinsburgchurch.org](http://connect.martinsburgchurch.org), go to your profile and click financial. Your year-end statement is available for download.
2. Call or email the church office and request your giving statement to be sent directly to you. (304) 596-9330 or [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org)

Thanks for using these methods of obtaining your statements.

### G4 Kids – Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to serve in Motion (nursery), Discovery (preschool), and Launch (k-5). If you are interested in serving one of these areas please contact the church office at (304) 596-9330 or [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org) to receive an information packet and background check form.

**VOLUNTEERING Interested in serving at C@M?** Our volunteers are a huge part of what takes place here not only on Sundays, but the entire week. Visit [volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org](http://volunteering.martinsburgchurch.org) to see the opportunities we have posted and sign up today! You can call (304) 596-9330 or email [contact@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:contact@martinsburgchurch.org).

### PASTOR ON CALL FOR 02/10/12 – 02/13/12 SHAY OSBORNE

If you or your family have an emergency and need to get hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

### Missionary Toolbox

**Church History Bio** – William Tyndale (1484 -1546) - a man of heroic stature and died a martyr's death. In England alone, more than 1,000 people were burned between 1400 and 1557 for the sake of the Gospel. Tyndale's books and tracts (or "pestilent glosses" as his enemies referred to them) were smuggled into England wrapped in bales of wool or cloth or sacks of flour by fellow "Lollards".

Tyndale's contributions, enshrined in his and subsequent English Bibles, molded the speech of even those who condemned him. The British Library described Tyndale's New Testament as "the most important printed book in the English language" and paid more than one million pounds for it. Only two complete copies are known to have survived: most were burned or literally read to pieces.

**Theological Term of the Week** – Ecclesiology - the study of the Christian church, its structure, order, practices, and hierarchy.