

GIVING LIFE AWAY WHILE GROWING OUR SOULS

Giving to the MISSION 1:8 Budget provides funds for everything the church does — not just the missional endeavors we've committed to among the poor, widows, orphans, and prisoners, or in our city, our nation, and our world. So, your contributions make Life Bible Studies possible! In turn, these groups are doing their part to support the overall missional focus of our church. Here are a few examples.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

The ministry introduces young children to missions through Life Bible Studies and through Mission Friends on Wednesday evenings where they learn about missionaries around the world.

The ministry provides a safe place for new families to leave their children while they are being discipled at the church, enabling us to strengthen our home church so we can go out to the world.

STUDENTS (Grades 6-12)

Rush Week offers students in Grades 7-12 with an experience that has a camp feel but mission impact. This year's Rush Week takes place in Panama City, FL.

Rushmore is a new mission trip opportunity for students who have been on Rush Week before. The inaugural Rushmore this year takes place in New York City.

YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS

The young single adults launched a Spanish-speaking Life Bible Study earlier this year called Unidos en Cristo.

Each Life Bible Study chose a MISSION 1:8 city to support. Once a month, they come together to connect with that city in some way. Members from one class visited New York City over Easter, and another class visited Madrid over Spring Break.

ADULT I (40-60)

Adult I leaders are involved regularly as volunteers at the Faith Center and through working as a class during Houston 1:8. Many participate in various mission trips while some classes go to the same mission point each year.

CHILDREN (Grades 1-5)

A MISSION 1:8 activity book provides children and their families with information about our strategic partnerships in an engaging format that includes games, puzzles, interesting facts, and more.

In July, the one-day Family Mission Trip will allow children and their families to serve together as they partner with ministries in Galveston.

COLLEGE

College students have participated on mission trips to Guatemala, New York City, Montana, Lebanon, and Kenya. Locally, college students spend their time serving with C.H.A.R.M. Prison Ministries, helping the widows through Men: Serve, and by hosting kids' clubs at the Oak Forest Apartments.

MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

Groups from multiple classes have gone on mission trips to New York City, Boston, and Madrid.

Multiple classes maintain year-round relationships with their Houston 1:8 site, doing kids' clubs, women's Bible studies and other activities.

ADULT II (60+)

Adult II has started and will continue to establish small groups in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in our city.

NEWS + UPDATES

Houston's First Baptist Church is a relevant, biblical community where we **gather our hearts**, **grow our souls** and **give our lives** as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

TWEET OF THE WEEK: "I thoroughly enjoyed tonight's message by dr. peter williams. @HoustonsFirst" Elisa Fierro, @elisafierro22

ALL CAMPUSES

HighPoint Bible Study
Every Wed @ 11:30a — 1010 Lamar (tunnel level)
HighPoint meets at our Downtown Campus with lunch beginning at 11:30a for \$8, and Bible study taking place from 12:10-12:40p. On May 7, Executive Pastor David Self will talk about "Recognizing God's Solution."
CONTACT Diane.Bagby@HoustonsFirst.org

Italy: Steps of Paul
Today @ 4:30p — The Loop (Garden Rm)
Join Adam Mason and Wanda Jean Hickey in Italy this Nov 3-10 as you trace Paul's steps and the beginning of the church. Come to this information meeting today to learn about the trip, and find trip details at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT WJHickey3@comcast.net

Tour of the Holy Land
Sun, May 18 @ 2p — The Loop (Connection Ctr)
Join William & Nancy Taylor and Wanda Jean Hickey on a tour of the Holy Land next Apr 20-30, 2015. Come to this information meeting on May 18 to learn about the trip, and find details at HoustonsFirst.org/Events.
CONTACT WJHickey3@comcast.net

SPECIAL NEEDS
Especially Fun!
Today @ 2p — The Loop Campus (Worship Center)
The High 5 Kids' Choir and the Thru The Roof special needs ministry invite special needs families to a concert designed especially with you in mind! High 5 is dedicating their spring concert to families with special needs loved ones as a way to serve others. The concert is free!
CONTACT Denise.Briley@HoustonsFirst.org

NEXTGEN MINISTRIES
Vacation Bible School
Agency D3 is looking for young recruits to discover, decide, and defend the truth about Jesus! Visit HoustonsFirst.org/Events to enlist now for Agency D3 branches at Sienna (Jun 16-19) or The Loop (Jun 23-27).
CONTACT Katie.Walker@HoustonsFirst.org
Kim.Shelby@HoustonsFirst.org

THE LOOP

MidLink
Every Wed thru May 14
There is more to Houston's First than what happens on Sundays! Join us at The Loop on Wednesday evenings for MidLink — an evening of food and activities for all ages! Find the full schedule at HoustonsFirst.org/MidLink.

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
Mother's Day Luncheon
Sun, May 11 @ 12:15-2p — Reception Rm
All single parents - mothers and fathers - and their children are invited to this free luncheon as we celebrate Mother's Day together. RSVP online at HoustonsFirst.org/Events or contact Holly Crain.
CONTACT Holly.Crain@HoustonsFirst.org

CYPRESS
NEXTGEN MINISTRIES
NextGen Volunteer Orientation
Wed, May 21 @ 6:30-8p — Cypress Ministry Center
Are you currently serving or interested in serving with our NextGen Ministry? Attend this information session and learn about the ways you can pour into our students here in Cypress! Please RSVP to Josh Ganjavi or Erin Ruddle.
CONTACT Josh.Ganjavi@HoustonsFirst.org
Erin.Ruddle@HoustonsFirst.org

NextGen BBQ
Sat, May 31 @ 4-7p — Coles Crossing Park
Bring the family and invite friends to this afternoon of fun at the park with games, food and fellowship. Please RSVP to Natalie Stotts and let us know you're coming! The park is at 13050 Barker Cypress Rd.
CONTACT Natalie.Stotts@HoustonsFirst.org

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS!

Joshua Anderson
Joshua Bovell
Jenna Breaux
Isabella Brice
Nathaniel Carty
Parker Cheney
Marissa Clark
Jantzen Clayton
Elliott Cleveland
Kathleen Conn
Adriana Cruz
Laura Cureton
Erica Dauzacker
Madeline Davis

Sarah Davis
Victoria De La Rosa
Amye Dickerson
Khari Dotson
Preston Drake
Joshua Elias
Mia Evans
Bryan Flores
Adam Fox
Nathaniel Go
Jonathan Gonzales
Jeremy Goodall
Daniel Greer
Katherine Gualy

Caleb Guerrero
Grant Gunter
Hannah Gustafson
Cory Haff
Rebekah Hawk
Brandon Hay
Evan Heaton
Carsan Helm
Vanessa Hernandez
Eric Hill
Hannah Horne
Austin James
Kaylin Johnson
Luke Kliphon

Macy Lawson
Kenedy Lieberman
Holden Loveless
Ryan Mason
Stephen Mauzy
Carter McAdoo
Thomas McInroe
Colton McKinney
Robert Mitchell
Krystal Munoz
Oksana Murrell
Duyen (Julie) Nguyen
Hailey O'Neal
Pablo Oliveras

Jasmine Ortega
Darby Pappas
Anja Parikh
Kyle Pence
Taylor Ray
Kirsten Redweik
Meghan Reilly
Matthew Ritch
Jonathan Rogers
Samantha Rojano
Margarita Romero
Sophia Romo
Francisco Saenz
Gabriella Salazar

James Schneider
Lorelei Shannon
Roman Sisto
Jordan Smith
Sophia Smith
Ryan Spadt
Sydney Sprague
Matthew Stagg
Nathan Stockman
Candice Sutor
Rachel Talpas
Courtney Tate
Caroline Taylor
Graham Taylor

Torrey Townsend
Hudson Treu
Julia Tuma Santos
Jeremy Tushnet
Victoria Vonberg
Allison Walker
Cassidy West
David Wiederman
Meagan Williams
Drew Willingham
Zane Wisener
Timothy Zallar
Elissa Zamora
Nick Zander

SUNDAYS AT HOUSTON'S FIRST
The Loop Campus
7401 Katy Fwy • Houston, TX 77024
Worship 9:15a-11a-9:30p
Life Bible Studies 8a-9:15a-10:45a-4:15p-6:45p

Cypress Campus
10300 Warner Smith Blvd • Cypress, TX 77433
Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

Downtown Campus
1010 Lamar St • Houston, TX 77002
Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

Sienna Campus
4309 Sienna Pkwy • Missouri City, TX 77459
Worship 11a
Life Bible Studies 9:30a

MISSION 1:8

May 4, 2014



LIFE BIBLE STUDIES

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE!



WHAT IS A LIFE BIBLE STUDY?



At Houston's First, **growing our souls** is one of our strategies for fulfilling our mission and vision — along with **gathering our hearts** and **giving our lives**. The primary way we grow our souls is through Life Bible Study.

We see Life Bible Study as the church organized and dedicated to **Gathering** the unchurched and those who haven't discovered Christ while **Growing** believers through life changing Bible study to become Great Commission Christians, reflecting His love through **Giving** ministry to others.

Living out our Christian faith can be difficult, so having the support of fellow believers is essential. In fact, research tells us that after 5 years 83% of new Christians who are involved in a Life Bible Study remain active and engaged in the church. On the other hand, only 16% of those who are not involved in a Life Bible Study are still active.

"We encourage our Life Bible Studies to be open classes, not closed cliques," says Ben Pritchett, Minister of Education. "An open class is ready for — and wants — new people to visit every week, and it looks forward to starting new classes as attendance grows and leaders are raised up."

Fortunately, we're seeing a record number of people attending our Life Bible Studies! God is doing great things in these smaller gatherings as people of all ages come together to connect with others while they learn more about the Bible and our faith. What about you? Have you found a Life Bible Study — or have you invited somebody to come?

"If you have to choose between going to a worship service or a Life Bible Study, go to a Life Bible Study."

— **Pastor Gregg Matte**

FINDING A LIFE BIBLE STUDY

- Visit the Welcome Center at your campus
- Explore options at HoustonsFirst.org/LBS
- Ask a friend about their Life Bible Study

FAST FACTS

219

Weekly
Life Bible Studies

1,141

Faithful
Volunteer Leaders

4,455

Average
Weekly Attendance

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Life Bible Studies are Bible studies for life, playing a unique role at different stages and ages. Here's what each ministry seeks to accomplish in their respective classes.

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Provide a safe and secure environment where every child thrives and learns from the Bible as we lay a foundation for young children to one day accept Christ as their Savior

CHILDREN (Grades 1-5)

Guide children to apply Biblical truths to their lives, hide God's Word in their hearts, pray for missionaries around the world, and participate in a variety of other activities that encourage learning

STUDENTS (Grades 6-12)

Connect students with adult leaders who will teach God's Word and minister to them throughout the week while giving them opportunities to build community with peers in small groups as they grow spiritually together

COLLEGE

Provide a place for students to learn about their faith, find a community that provides encouragement and support, and serve others as they prepare to spread a passion for Him on their campuses

YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS

Provide authentic community forged through Bible study, social activities, and intramurals; spiritual growth through small groups and mentoring; and opportunities to give through use of God-given gifts and talents

MARRIED YOUNG ADULTS

Enable sustained life change through biblical community and provide a resource to marriages to help them be prepared, transformed, empowered, and restored

ADULT I (40-60)

Focused on supporting families in some of the most challenging years of life: career building, marriage and raising children, dealing with parents who are aging

ADULT II (60+)

Engage in continuing meaningful Bible Study, active fellowship with other believers, sharing resources and encouragement along with providing prayer support while seeking to bring others to a personal knowledge and relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ

YOUR LIFE BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE



"I had two mini strokes in March and I live alone. My Life Bible Study organized immediately to come to the rescue. They sat with me at the hospital. They drove me home, brought food, cleaned my house and even cleaned my cat's litter box. They took up a collection. They took me to doctor appointments and drove me to get prescriptions. They were the arms and legs and hugs of Jesus."

Carole Carson
The Loop



"I like seeing my friends, playing nice, and learning about Jesus."

Zane Brannan (age 4)
The Loop

"Life Bible Study is where you gain and grow friendships in the church. It's the little church within the big church."

Blake Palmer
The Loop

"I cannot stop talking to anyone who will listen about how much I get out of my attending and participating in my Life Bible Study. I am overcome with love and happiness each time I attend."

Martha Gilbert
The Loop

"The Life Bible Study experience is where the growth happens. It is the backbone of the church."

Diane Radack
Sienna

"True ministry in any church happens in Life Bible Study where people get to know you, and you them. We need each other. It is only in the small class setting that we can minister to the personal needs of one another."

Steve Newby
Sienna

"We have gotten to know other Christians that we probably wouldn't have known if it weren't for our Life Bible Study."

Cheryl Nickelson
Sienna



"I would be lost in this church without my class. It has given me a place to serve, to find community, to encourage and unite, to make a difference, to influence and to be influenced."

Judy Meyer
The Loop

"Our teacher brings a great amount of research into the preparations of the lessons. You never leave a class feeling like you already knew everything that was taught. No matter how long you have been a Christian, you want to continue to grow closer to the Lord and understand how to live your faith out loud."

Misti Steen
The Loop

"I have recommitted my life to Christ because I found Houston's First, but most importantly because of my acceptance into my Life Bible Study. They encourage me and support me. They LOVE and don't judge me for having the past that I do or the struggles I try to overcome."

Kimberly Poblano
The Loop

"We've been able to rely on others, as a couple, when we've gone through tough times in our marriage, in our jobs or with friends/family. And in return we've been able to pray for other couples and celebrate their triumphs and mourn their losses. We've seen quiet couples lead mission trips and fringe couples grow into leaders."

Cason White
The Loop

"Houston's First was a pretty daunting (though welcoming) place. Life Bible Study gave us a chance to build relationships with other people of faith in a new city for us and a way to draw strength from each other before we go out into the world every week."

Russell Gantos
The Loop

"Don't miss such a great opportunity to be a part of something that's so awesome. You will feel welcome and the love of Christ when you visit. Could not have picked a better group of friends."

Charleston Burks
The Loop