

The Journey: Our Pilgrimage Toward God

To be experienced January – May 2012

What is *The Journey*?

The Journey is a ministry of the Fullerton Evangelical Free Church offered from January through May each year for the purpose of helping devoted followers of Jesus Christ in their personal spiritual growth. Our desire is that the participants will gain a better understanding of how the Holy Spirit is working to shape their hearts and that they will learn how to cooperate with this work of the Spirit. The participants will be guided in this ministry through lectures, prayer projects, readings, small group interaction, journaling, personal retreats and other spiritual disciplines. The goal will be that each participant will engage purposefully with the Holy Spirit as He is shaping them into Christ-likeness.

More Specifically: *The Journey* will ...

- 1) Gather those who want to purposefully pursue their inner transformation.
- 2) Be considered a starting point for our understanding and practice of spiritual growth in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. (Spiritual Formation 101)
- 3) Focus on the personal spiritual formation (heart transformation) of the participants.
- 4) Give the participants guidance in purposefully interacting with the Holy Spirit through the disciplines of lectures, prayer projects, reading, group spiritual direction and personal retreat in order to “work” the principles of spiritual formation into their lives.
- 5) Be the vehicle where spiritual formation can be encouraged in the context of soul care provided by the Spiritual Formation Leaders of the church.
- 6) Provide a context for all participants to become familiar with basic truths and the processes involved in heart transformation so that they may continue to pursue spiritual formation on their own **and** so that they might be used in the spiritual formation of others within their spheres of influence.
- 7) Be a context to begin shaping our church’s understanding and practice of spiritual growth in cooperation with the Holy Spirit.

Why: Our desire is that this ministry be used by God to reshape our understanding and practice of spiritual growth in cooperation with the Holy Spirit at the Fullerton Evangelical Free Church.

When: The meetings for ***The Journey*** will take place from January 16 to May 21 of 2012 on Monday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. each night we meet. (Refer to the schedule at the end of this document for specific dates.)

Assignments: The “real” journey will take place as participants carve time out of their weekly schedules to meet with God as they do their prayer projects. It is expected that the participants will invest approximately 3 hours per week (in addition to the class time) in their

pursuit of spiritual growth related to **The Journey**. Each participant will be graciously held accountable for completing the assignments. Part of the expectation will be that participants turn in written assignments to their group facilitator for review and feedback.

Note: If a person is not able to realistically invest the hours needed to participate fully in this ministry, it is requested that they not register this time and wait until their life circumstances will allow them to fully engage with all dimensions of this ministry.

Where: The lecture / large group meetings will be held upstairs in the Commons (room 212) at FEFC. The small group meetings will be held in various classrooms adjacent to the lecture room.

The personal retreat for each individual will be scheduled by each participant in conjunction with their small group at a retreat center within reasonable driving distance of Orange County.

Who: We currently are praying that God would provide 8 spiritual directors who will offer leadership and soul care for the participants.

The difficult dimension in a ministry like this is that we must limit the number of participants based upon the number of trained leaders. With 8 leaders, we can accept 40 people in the program. If more than 40 apply, we will attempt to arrange for more spiritual directors. Preference will be given to people from the congregation of the Fullerton Free Church. An additional factor that will be considered ... and this is one where we will need the Spirit's wisdom and guidance ... is the **readiness** of the participants for a ministry of this nature. To help us determine an individual's readiness for **The Journey**, we are asking that those who desire to participate submit an application and references. Be praying with and for those who will be trying to discern who the people are that should be in **The Journey** at this time.

How Much: The cost for each participant will be \$100. That fee will cover all expenses related to the program at the church (i.e. notebooks, materials, leader's expenses, lecture notes, lecture CDs and other program materials).

Payment in full must be received by Sheri Moody no later than January 9, 2012. Checks should be made out to FEFC. You may also pay by credit card. You will be provided a link by which you'll be able to make your payment on line. Call Sheri at (714) 257-4370 Monday through Friday between 8 AM-Noon and 1-3 PM with any payment questions. She will be on vacation December 30 through January 8.

Each participant will be expected to arrange and pay for a personal 48 hour retreat. The cost for a retreat center varies widely ... but will be between \$150 - \$200 for the two days and nights. Some centers provide meals in the fee, others do not. Travel expenses will need to be added to your calculations to arrive at a sum.

To Apply: Applications and reference forms can be submitted on line after October 1, 2011, from the church website (www.evfreefullerton.com>connect>adults>spiritual formation) or pick up an application and reference forms at the Adult Ministries table on the plaza after October 1, 2011. Completed applications and your 3 reference forms need to reach Sheri Moody at the church office (2801 Brea Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92821 attn: Sheri Moody) by December 9, 2011.

Selection and Notification: The applications and references will be prayerfully considered during the second week of December. Everyone will be notified of the results by December 16, 2011.

Schedule:

January 16	Orientation
January 23	Begin Life Map
January 28 (Sat.)	9 am – noon Complete Life Map in small groups
January 30	Lecture #1 – Moral vs. Spiritual Formation
<i>February 6</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
February 13	Group Direction
February 20	Lecture #2 – Hidden Heart
<i>February 27</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
March 5	Group Direction
March 12	Lecture #3 – Dark Nights
<i>March 19</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
March 26	Group Direction
April 2	Preparing for Personal Retreat
April 9	Lecture #4 – Going on with Dark Nights
<i>April 16</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
April 23	Group Direction
April 30	Lecture #5 – Spiritual Disciplines
<i>May 7</i>	<i>No Meeting</i>
May 14	Group Direction
May 21	Wrap Up

Personal Retreat to be taken with your small group in April or May