

First Baptist Church
San Antonio, Texas

INTRODUCTION to Circles of Six

First Baptist Church, San Antonio includes in its ministry to the community a four-fold approach to the study of Scripture:

- Recommended daily Scripture reading for each week
- Discussion of the same Scripture passage in Sunday Bible classes
- Pastor's sermon based on the same Scriptural text
- Application of the same Scripture discussed during weekly small group session.

The fourth step in this process is the essence of the Circle of Six program.

Circles of Six are based upon two principles.

1) The Power of Scripture.

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us' while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scripture to us?" (Luke 24:32)

"But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16)

"All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that, too, God will make clear to you." (Philippians 3:15)

2) The Power of a Small Group.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

"God's Word illuminates!
It penetrates our cloud of self-deception
and shows things as they really are.
It takes courage to step into the light in this way."
—Jim Peterson

With all of this in mind, and in the final analysis, the most beneficial product of involvement in a Circle for each week's study and reading of the Word is to ask yourself this question...

"What shall I do, Lord?"
(Acts 22:10)

What is a Circle of Six?

It is a small group of friends (3 to 6 in number) who covenant together to read a selected passage of Scripture and to meet weekly to share what God's Word is saying to him/her individually and how his/her life is being changed.

Who can participate?

All are welcome. Visitors may be invited by anyone in the Circle and do not have to be members of First Baptist Church, nor do they have to be saved. However, an individual can only visit once—on the second visit they must agree to the covenant and join the group.

What's in it for me?

The value of the Circle is that of:

- Community. (Love and care for each other.)
- Accountability. (Honest discussion.)
- Discovery. (Daily reading opens the heart and mind to the teaching of the Holy Spirit.)
- Regularity. (Every member, every week.)
- Vulnerability. (Experience of life changes through the application of Scripture.)
- Courtesy. (No criticism as everyone shares.)
- Confidentiality. (What is said in the group, stays in the group.)

A Circle of Six is NOT...

- A Bible study
- A prayer/share group
- A support group
- A fellowship

**A Circle of Six is...
a place to GROW.**

How to use this guide.

- The assigned SCRIPTURES (separate page or on-line) are to be read and reflected on in preparation for use in Sunday Bible study and in worship.
- The SERMON NOTES may be used to take notes on the weekly sermon (prior to meeting).
- The QUESTIONS are to be answered in preparation for the Circle of 6 meeting during the week following that Sunday.
- The PRAYER JOURNAL enables the writing of communication with God during that week.
- The PRAYER REQUESTS/ANSWERS enables the recording (briefly) of prayer requests, the dates of the requests, and when God answered.



“The written Word of God is an expression of God’s mind just as surely, though in a different manner, as are creation and Jesus, the living Word. As we read it and study it intelligently, humbly and openly, we come increasingly to share God’s mind. It is through the action of the Word of God upon us, through us and with us that we come to have the mind of Christ and thus to live fully in the kingdom of God.”

—Dallas Willard (from Hearing God)

“If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

Circle of Six
COVENANT

This Circle is designed to be a safe and friendly place for the discovery of the truth of Scripture and it's relevance to your life. This Covenant Agreement is intended to convey the purpose of the small group and your role as an active member.

- I agree to read the selected passage at least three times prior to our weekly meeting.
- I agree to seek the truth of Scripture and it's relevance to me life (Acts 22:10 question.)
- I agree to be consistent and regular in my group attendance.
- I agree to be honest in my sharing and to keep all group discussions completely confidential.
- I agree to pray for others in my group.
- I agree to be courteous to others in my group and to respect their boundaries and contributions.

Signature of Circle Member