

Men's Newsletter

Spring 2022

"My wayward children," says the LORD, "come back to me, and I will heal your wayward hearts." – Jeremiah 3:22



Men's Community Groups

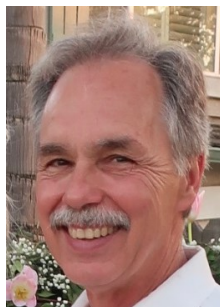
The groups below are open to all men looking for devotion, prayer, and fellowship. To register, visit laurelridgechurch.org/community-groups, click the **Sign Up** button and fill in the form, or contact the group leaders directly.

Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via Zoom

Host: Dennis Ouka
(925) 584-6618
denouka@sbcglobal.net



Thursday Mornings

Time: 6:30 AM

Place: Room 301 at church or online via YouVersion app

Host: Dan Mathisen
(209) 612-5028
mathisen.dan@gmail.com



Recovery is for Everyone

by Dan Mathisen

I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say, "Recovery? Who needs that?" Or another favorite, "I'm not hanging out with those drunks and addicts."

Nationally, about 20 million Americans attend a recovery

group of some type each week. Many are 12-step programs. The difference with Celebrate Recovery is that it's based on God's Word. Unless you have lived a perfect life, if you've ever been hurt, if you've ever had a hangup or a habit that you'd like to get rid of, you need recovery.

The Bible says we all have a sin nature that causes us all kinds of problems. We do things that aren't good for us. We do them even when they are self-destructive, and we don't do things that are good for us. We respond the wrong way when we're hurt and it just increases the hurt, rather than lessening it. We treat each other in wrong ways and then it backfire. Have you ever tried to fix a problem and then it ends up worse than when it started?

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Reading on YouVersion

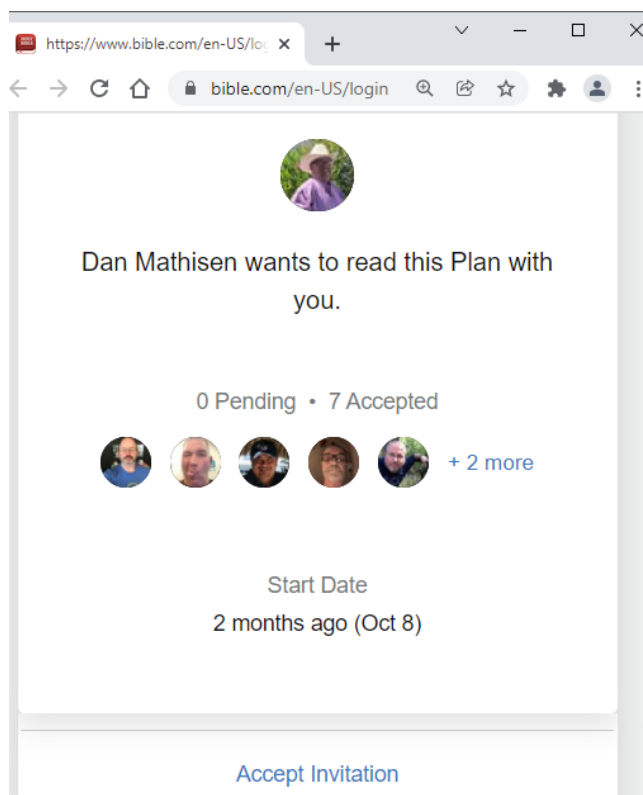
by Dan Mathisen

Staying in the Word in our sometimes hectic lives is so important. Staying plugged in with other men allows us to grow spiritually and be stronger leaders for those we may influence—family friends, co-workers and others.

One way we can do that is to study the Bible with others. The YouVersion app lets us study individually and discuss together.

To join the current study via YouVersion, click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y55zyras>

The link opens the YouVersion Invitation page for the current study and shows who is participating in the study:



Click the **Accept Invitation** button, then sign in or, if you don't have an account, sign up and then sign in. Give it a try! ✝



Sunday, March 27 , from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the corner of A and 6th Streets in Antioch. Also on April 24, May 22, and June 26 (the fourth Sunday of each month).

Join with other believers in providing a meal and sharing God's love with the homeless and other people in need.

Donations of food, soft drinks and other items, and volunteers to help set up, serve and share are welcome. Contact Bob Andrade at randradeteam@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.



Who in the Bible said "I am who I am"?

The Lord, when he spoke to Moses (Exo 3:14) and Jesus when he spoke to his disciples (Jhn 13:19).

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Proverbs 14 says, "There is a way that seems right to man but it ends in death."

We will always have this sin nature with us, this desire to do the wrong thing. We're going to always have it with us until we get to heaven. And even after we become a Christian, we still have desires that pull us the wrong way. Paul understood this. In Romans 7:15 he said, "I don't understand myself at all. For I really want to do what's right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to do but what I hate. I know perfectly well that what I'm doing is wrong, but I can't help myself. It's sin inside me that's stronger than I am, that makes me do those evil things."

Does this sound vaguely familiar to any of you? Do you end up doing what you don't want to do and not doing what you want to do? The first step is to understand the cause of this problem, then the consequences of the problem, then the cure.

The cause of all your problems is this: you want to be God. You say, "I don't want anybody telling me what's right and what's wrong, I want to decide what's right and what's wrong. I want to call my own shots, I want to make my own rules. I want to be the center of the universe. I want to be my own boss, live my own way, if it feels good, do it. I don't want anybody telling me what to do with my life." That's called playing God. What it says is, "I want to control." And the more insecure you are, the more you're driven to control.

This is man's oldest problem. It started with Adam and Eve. God put them in Paradise and said "You can do anything you want except one thing: Don't eat from this one tree." But when Satan said, "Eat this fruit and you will be like God," they couldn't resist. That's been the problem for all of us ever

since. We want to be God. We want to call the shots. We want to run our own life.

How do we play God? We want to be at the center of our universe so we try to control ourselves, other people, and even what other people think of us. We don't want others to know what we're really like. We play games, we wear masks, we pretend, we fake it, we show certain sides of us and we hide other parts, and we deny our weaknesses and we deny our feelings ("I'm not angry, I'm not upset, I'm not worried, I'm not afraid.") We don't want people to see the real us because if they know who we really are and don't like us, we have nothing left because we are all we got. We try to control our image to protect ourself. Parents try to control kids; kids try to control parents. Wives try to control husbands; husbands try to control wives. People try to control other people. There are office politics in your office. Countries try to control other countries. We use a lot of tools to manipulate each other. We use guilt to control, we use fear, we use praise, some of you use the silent treatment, some use anger or rage. It always ends in fear, frustration, fatigue and failure.

Celebrate Recovery can help you overcome your control issues. If you want to learn the biblical answers to your hurts, habits and hangups, come on out to the Laurel Ridge Bethel Island campus Tuesdays at 6 pm. Child care is available with notice. For more information, contact Dan Mathisen at (209) 612-5028 or at mathisen.dan@gmail.com. ✝