



# *follow*

JESUS... THE LIGHT THAT LEADS TO LIFE

FIRST WOODWAY DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES  
SPRING 2023



*First Woodway Family,*

*As we launch the Spring 2023 semester of classes,  
I want to share with you the philosophy which serves as  
the foundation for every class we offer.*

*We have chosen to emphasize specific pathways that  
we hope will encourage you to develop a growing  
understanding of God's Word founded on distinctively  
Christian beliefs and healthy spiritual habits. These  
pathways are designed to foster an environment of growth  
that develops our Christian community within  
our church family.*

*Each semester's offerings will fall into one of the following  
pathways: Bible, Belief, Behavior, or Community & Care.*

*In the following pages you will find classes that  
are geared towards building proficiency in  
each of these important pathways.*



RONNY HIGGINS  
EXECUTIVE PASTOR

## DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Ronny Higgins  
Executive Pastor  
rhiggins@firstwoodway.org

Elizabeth Oates  
Minister of Discipleship;  
Women + Marriage  
eoates@firstwoodway.org

Carrie Burrows  
Minister of Discipleship;  
Connections  
cburrows@firstwoodway.org

Case Smith  
Associate Minister; College,  
Recreation, + Men  
csmith@firstwoodway.org

Emily Hamilton  
Ministry Coordinator  
ehamilton@firstwoodway.org

Abby Batlle  
Administrative Assistant to  
Executive Pastor + Discipleship  
abatlle@firstwoodway.org



# PATHWAYS

## BIBLE

Ephesians  
“I AM” Statements of Christ  
Matchless  
Prayer Meeting & Study  
Revelation Chapters 4-11: The Future  
The Dwelling  
Wayward Men

## BELIEF

Faith Foundations  
God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible  
Discerning the Voice of God

## BEHAVIOR

A Global Gospel in a World of Religion  
Kingdom Hunters – Men Who Seek God’s Kingdom First  
Identity: Who We Are in Christ & the World  
Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice

## COMMUNITY & CARE

Christian Writer’s Workshop  
DivorceCare  
Doing Life with Your Adult Children  
Family Discipleship  
Financial Peace  
GriefShare  
Just Moved  
Married Life: Highs and Lows  
Porch Light  
Thrive

*wednesday evenings for*

# FAMILIES

4:45 - 5:45 PM

---

## WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL

Our hope is to make Wednesday evenings easy for our families. You are invited to join the gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a dinner catered by favorite local area restaurants. Everyone's welcome!

The cost is \$8.00 per adult and \$5.00 for kids 12 and under. Kids age four and under eat free. Please RSVP online or call the church office at 254.772.9696.

6:00 - 7:00 PM

---

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

### KINGDOM KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- Childcare for Babies-Threes (parent must attend a discipleship class)
- PreK - 3rd Grade: Kids Choirs
- 4th-5th Grades: Choose between Kids Choir or a Bible Study & Skills Class with Mrs. Barbra

7:00 - 8:15 PM

---

## YOUTH MINISTRY

- Junior High (6th-8th) PrimeTime | MAC, Room A200
- High School (9th-12th) WNL | The Venue

## ADULT WORSHIP CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir Site, Second Floor

# PATHWAY BIBLE

*This pathway emphasizes spending time reading, studying, and applying God's word to our lives because it is God's ordained means of revealing himself to us.*

*These classes will focus on walking through different books and stories in the Bible to discover how God has made himself known to His creation.*

*The goal is to increase our biblical literacy not to do better in Bible trivia, but so we can better participate in God's story...deep discipleship is about pursuing the kind of knowledge that transforms, not just informs.*

## EPHESIANS

*Led by Ronny Higgins  
& Rodney Bowden  
Pathway: Bible  
For Everyone*

*Wednesdays  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Starts January 18  
No Cost*

Ephesians is packed with amazing passages that are ideal for private devotions and group discussions as a part of our church's discipleship program. When we read through it together, it can be seen as a spiritual remedy to radically improve the spiritual health of our church and every ministry within it.

It covers concepts such as: expressing our praise for our blessings in Christ, celebrating God's grace that raises us from death to life, deepening our sense of security in Christ through understanding God's love, preparing and mobilizing all of God's people to minister and share His love, and heeding the call to stand firm in the armor of God.

## "I AM" STATEMENTS OF CHRIST

*Led by Kim Scott  
& Kelly Levesque  
Pathway: Bible  
For Everyone*

*Wednesdays  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Starts January 25  
No Cost*

We each have ways we describe ourselves. After late season losses, Baylor's football coach, Dave Aranda, stated, "Football is what I do, but it is not who I am." This meaningful study will explore who Jesus says He is in the book of John.

There are at least seven "I AM" statements of Christ, and they are all claims Jesus made. There were both witnesses and skeptics. This study will give you a firm grasp of each statement and related scriptures. It will also provide insight and reflection on how the truth of each statement affects our lives today.

Who is Jesus? Why did He come to earth? How can I know Him? We live in a world where there's a lot of confusion about Jesus. Too often people want to shape Him and His message to fit their personal needs or agendas. So how can we know the truth?

Join *Seamless* author Angie Smith in the search for truth as she unfolds the story of our matchless Savior—His mission, miracles, and message. Through her signature wit and accessible style, Angie unpacks Scripture in a way that's easy to understand, regardless of how long you've been studying the Bible (a great option for new believers).

This study will deepen your understanding of Jesus through biblical, historical, and cultural insight and help you see Him less as an iconic figure and more as an intimate friend.

We will take the Spring 2023 semester to explore great characters from the Old Testament and discover how we are to follow God. Adam, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and others will offer insights as to how they followed God in good days as well as the difficult ones. You will discover how important you are to God and how you can follow Him through all the different circumstances of your life.

Come be a part of this important study in a time where many voices are calling us to follow them. We will learn from these great personalities of the Old Testament and how to hear God's voice speaking to our lives. Make sure to bring your Bible and invite a friend to come be part of this weekly time together.

## MATCHLESS

*Led by Melodie Robison*  
*Pathway: Bible*  
*For Women Only*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00-7:00 pm*  
*Starts January 18*  
*\$16 (includes the book)*

## PRAYER MEETING & STUDY

*Led by René Maciel*  
*& Roy Marshall*  
*Pathway: Bible*  
*For Everyone*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00-7:00 pm*  
*Starts January 18*  
*No Cost*

REVELATION  
CHAPTERS 4 – 11  
THE FUTURE

*Led by Dr. Ted Foley  
Pathway: Bible  
For Everyone*

*Wednesdays  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Starts January 18  
No Cost*

The Book of Revelation has been described as the most revered, the most misunderstood, and the most neglected of New Testament writings. Many Christians view Revelation in much the same way and think of it as being too difficult to seriously study.

Nothing could be further from reality and the truth. Such short-sightedness deprives believers of the blessings the Book promises. Those who study Revelation with care agree that it is a unique source of Christian teaching and one of timeless relevance. Christians who ignore Revelation rob themselves of a rich treasure of divine truth because it is truly a showcase of the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” our Lord and Savior. It is far from being the Book that no one can understand. The purpose of Revelation is to reveal truth, not to obscure it, and that single fact is evident in its title.

Since “All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching” (2 Tim. 3:16), it is nonsense to believe that God would write 66 Books of the Bible for believers, and one of them turns out incomprehensible.

Revelation tells us in 1:3 “for the time is near,” meaning that we shall soon move from the Church Age to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Everything in the Book points to the nearness of His literal return. Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in Heaven, saying “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever” (Rev, 11:15).

God created us for connection, and that is clearly reflected in various “pairs” seen in Scripture. Many of those pairs were exemplary, teaching us much about support and accountability. Other pairs in the Bible serve as warnings, showing us how we can sometimes cause problems for one another. Our theme for this semester in the Dwelling, “Two for the Price of One: Famous – and Infamous – Pairs,” will investigate these principles and how we can apply them to our lives today. From Adam and Eve to Jesus and Peter and lots of pairs in between (including Balaam and that donkey!), we will transfer the experiences of the past into vital truths for the present.

Wayward, by definition, is a turning away from what is right or proper, turning or changing irregularly. Wayward Men is a group for men who are choosing to turn away from the world and turning and changing to becoming radical men in Christ. Men who were once distant in following Christ, to men who have a passion for His way in their life. Come join us for coffee, pastries, and a time in His Word.

## THE DWELLING

*Led by: Vicki Lassiter*

*Pathway: Bible*

*For Moms Only*

*Mondays*

*9:00-11:00 am*

*Starts January 23*

*No Cost*

*This class has a separate [registration form](#) which includes childcare. You may also sign up on the app, or on the church website.*

## WAYWARD MEN

*Led by René Maciel*

*Pathway: Bible*

*For Men Only*

*Thursdays*

*6:30-7:30 am*

*Meets Weekly/Ongoing*

*No Cost*

# PATHWAY BELIEF

*This pathway emphasizes studying scripture that will help us know who God is, who we are, what the world is, and how we can be faithful participants in God's mission.*

*We need to ask the question: are we forming people who think more like Christ, or are we neglecting doctrine and letting the world form them into people who think and believe like the world?*

*These classes will help to clarify some Christian beliefs in order to help people understand biblical doctrine so that they will be better prepared to navigate our broken world.*

We are excited to offer this class that will go through some topics that are foundational to our faith. This class is for people who are curious about what faith in Jesus means, new believers who are looking to understand more about our walk with Christ, and anyone else who would like to refresh their understanding of foundational concepts of faith. If you are looking to get a better understanding of what following Christ looks like, this class is for you.

Come join us in a study to understand the story of the whole Bible and how each part relates to the others and culminates in Christ. We will take a look at the grand, single story of God's redemptive work revealed in His Word. Along with the Bible, we will use: *God's Big Picture* by Vaughn Roberts.

The Bible is clearly no ordinary book: sixty-six books written by forty people over nearly 2,000 years, in two languages and several different genres; a worldwide bestseller published in countless sizes and bindings, translations and languages; sworn by in court, fought over by religious people, quoted in arguments. How can you begin to read and understand it as a whole?

In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts gives you the big picture—showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the Kingdom of God. He provides both the encouragement and the tools to help you read the Bible with confidence and understanding. And he points you to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ and the salvation God offers through Him.

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

*Led by Will & Carly Bowden*

*Pathway: Belief*

*For Growing Believers*

*Wednesdays*

*6:00-7:00 pm*

*Starts January 18*

*Cost is \$5 (includes the book)*

## GOD'S BIG PICTURE: TRACING THE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE

*Led by Jeremy Webb*

*Pathway: Belief*

*For Everyone*

*Wednesdays*

*6:00-7:00 pm*

*Starts January 18*

*Cost is \$16 (includes the book)*

## DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD

*Led by Jan Gilbert*

*Pathway: Belief  
For Women Only*

*Mondays*

*9:00-11:30 am*

*Starts January 30*

*Cost is \$17 (includes the book)*

A decade ago, Priscilla Shirer authored *Discerning the Voice of God*, and since then God has continued to grow, teach, and challenge her in her walk with Him. This revised and expanded edition reflects that growth through new stories, illustrations, and exercises.

Through seven sessions, discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life.

*{May} Christ make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow  
down into God's love and keep you strong.*

—EPHESIANS 3:17

# PATHWAY BEHAVIOR

*This pathway emphasizes digging into scripture in order to train not just the head but also the heart and the body as disciples of Jesus.*

*Distinctly Christian habits are precariously absent from most discipleship initiatives. The reality is that it is not just what we know that shapes us, but it is what we do that shapes us as well.*

*Our goal is to provide classes that emphasize various spiritual disciplines that will help you integrate your minds with your hearts, your hearts with your souls, and your souls with your strength.*

*Discipleship needs to be aware of the whole person.*

A GLOBAL GOSPEL  
IN A WORLD  
OF RELIGIONS

*Led by Justin Anderson*  
*Pathway: Behavior*  
*For Everyone*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00-7:00 pm*  
*Starts January 18*  
*No Cost*

A multiplicity of religions exists in the world, all claiming to hold the truth about who we are, how we got here, what we're doing, and where we're going. Billions of people believe in Christianity, while others embrace Islam; some are Hindu and others are Buddhist. Amidst it all, many are atheist, or at the very least agnostic.

So how are we to think and what are we to do in this massive marketplace of religious ideas? In this class, we will explore the claims of Christ in the Gospel and consider how these claims inform the way we understand religions in the world and impact the way we live when surrounded by varied believers with diverse belief systems.

KINGDOM  
HUNTERS - MEN  
WHO SEEK GOD'S  
KINGDOM FIRST

*Led by Doug Webster*  
*Pathway: Behavior*  
*For Men Only*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00-7:00 pm*  
*Starts January 18*  
*No Cost*

Come join fellow men in our quest to become Kingdom Hunters! The goal of this course is to grow in our devotion to Jesus and His Kingdom as we study topics such as:

- The Gospel of the Kingdom of God
- The Genius King
- Kingdom Living
- Stewardship of Royal Reputation & Wealth.

There are certainly treasures in store!

The Bible clearly defines our identity, yet too often we look to an ever-changing culture to find our self-worth. In this 7-week study you will recognize seven characteristics of your identity in Christ and then observe how those characteristics impact your relationship with God, yourself, others, and the world.

Whether you are a young adult, a young mom, or a woman wise beyond her years, you are invited to come, connect, and learn what God says about who you are in Him. This study will rely heavily on table discussion and building community with optional homework.

Are you tired of being anxious, impatient, or angry so much of the time?

Come join us for a beautiful study on how to stop letting your emotions control your life and start transforming your heart, mind, and soul to become more like Christ. This study includes small-group discussion time with light homework.

## IDENTITY: WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND THE WORLD

*Led by Elizabeth Oates*  
*Pathway: Behavior*  
*For Women Only*

*Wednesdays*  
*6:00-7:00 pm*  
*Starts January 18*  
*No Cost*

## RENOVATION OF THE HEART IN DAILY PRACTICE

*Led by Robin Webster*  
*Pathway: Behavior*  
*For Women Only*

*Wednesdays*  
*9:00-11:00 am*  
*Starts January 18*  
*No Cost*

# PATHWAY COMMUNITY & CARE

*This pathway offers classes with relational support and Biblical teaching to help people navigate various—and sometimes challenging—seasons of life.*

*Join a group such as GriefShare, Just Moved, or one of our marriage classes, and you will experience deeper community while gaining the encouragement and equipping you need. Groups meet throughout the week on various days and times.*

Do you have a story that needs to be told? Maybe it's a story of God's faithfulness, or family history that you want to preserve.

Christian Writers Workshop offers education, inspiration, and encouragement for writers from beginners to published authors. Get to know other writers as you share information and sharpen your skills. Spring sessions will include short writing assignments and instruction for writing improvement.

## CHRISTIAN WRITERS WORKSHOP

*Led by Michelle Ruddell  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For Everyone*

*Sundays  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Starts January 15  
No Cost*

*Childcare by reservation only*

Healing from divorce is not easy. In DivorceCare groups, people experiencing separation and divorce find tools, teaching, and support to help them deal with their pain and give them hope for the future.

If you are facing this, we understand it's a confusing time; you feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues you've never encountered. DivorceCare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

This 13-week Christ-centered program includes three main parts—video, group discussion and personal Bible study.

## DIVORCECARE

*Led by Leon & Jo Williams  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For those affected by divorce*

*Mondays  
6:30 pm  
Starts January 9  
No Cost*

## DOING LIFE WITH YOUR ADULT CHILDREN

*Led by Doug Webster*  
*Pathway: Community & Care*  
*For Everyone*

*Sundays*  
*5:30-7:00 pm*  
*Runs April 30 – May 21*  
*No Cost*

You are invited to a four-week encouraging conversation with a group of peers who understand this challenging and often unsupported, unguided season of life with adult children.

Topics include: Keep Your Mouth Shut and the Welcome Mat Out; Why Is It Taking My Kid So Long to Grow Up? How to Raise an Entitled Adult Child...or Not; A Failure to Launch — from Dependence to Independence; When Your Grown Child Violates Your Values; The High Cost of Money — Financial Independence and Responsibility; In-Laws, Stepfamilies, and the Blend; It's Party Time with the Grandkids; How to Parent Your Adult Children Like Jesus Would if He Were You

## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

*Led by Aryn &*  
*Brooklyn Bolton*  
*Pathway: Community & Care*  
*For Everyone*

*Sundays*  
*5:30-7:00 pm*  
*Runs March 12 – April 16*  
*No Cost*

*This class has a separate [registration form](#) which includes childcare. You may also sign up on the app, or on the church website.*

One of the greatest responsibilities all Christian parents have is to be disciple makers in their homes - raising your children in the love and fear of the Lord. Discipling your family can feel like an intimidating task, but it doesn't need to be overwhelming or complicated. With a simple plan in place, discipleship is something every parent can do.

This class will give young families practical steps to developing sustainable rhythms of gospel-centered discipleship focused in three key areas: time, moments, and milestones. Utilizing this framework will bless your family and focus your discipleship, no matter the number, age, development, or personality of your children.

Is it time to have some financial peace in your life? This semester our church is offering Financial Peace University, Dave Ramsey's #1 proven program that will show you how to pay off debt, build wealth, and give generously.

Join the millions of people who have used this course to take control of their money. The \$60 includes the Financial Peace course, as well as a one-year subscription to Ramsey+, which consists of other online classes and resources including: Know Yourself, Know Your Money; Smart Money Kids; Legacy Journey, and more.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help you find healing.

## FINANCIAL PEACE

*Led by Loren Kendig  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For Everyone*

*Sundays  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Starts January 15  
Cost is \$60*

*Childcare by reservation only*

## GRIEFSHARE

*Led by Lisa Spitzer  
& Dianna Palich  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For anyone who has suffered  
the loss of a loved one*

*Wednesdays  
6:00 pm  
Starts April 5  
No Cost*

## JUST MOVED

*Led by Nancy Jackson  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For Women Only*

*Tuesdays  
9:30-11:30 am  
Starts January 17  
Cost is \$11 (includes the  
book and binder)*

Recognizing that moving a family presents a huge set of challenges and lots of hard work, we are pleased to offer a Christ-centered study entitled, "After the Boxes Are Unpacked: Moving on After Moving In."

This is a powerful, hands-on class using biblical principles and practical how-to's. This will be a great opportunity to make new friends and get acquainted with other women also new to the area just like you.

## MARRIED LIFE: HIGHS AND LOWS

*Led by Elizabeth Oates  
Pathway: Community & Care  
For All Married Persons*

*Sundays  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Meets February 19 & 26  
No Cost*

*This class has a separate [registration form](#) which includes childcare. You may also sign up on the app, or on the church website.*

Welcome to Married Life! Whether you have been married one year, 10 years, or 50 years, you have probably realized that marriage is filled with highs and lows. Yet too often we focus on the lows, the challenges, and the stressors instead of the joys God brings into our lives.

Couples of all ages and stages of marriage are invited to this interactive two-week marriage workshop where we learn how we can use our highs and lows to build intimacy with our spouse.

Many families in our church share the same private struggle: a child or loved one who has wandered from God and fallen into addiction or a pattern of poor choices.

Porch Light, a care group that helps families navigate the chaos, was birthed by Brad and Lisa Hyde out of their own experience as parents of a child who struggles with addiction.

Porch Light is a ministry for the loved ones of those struggling with addictions. Whether a child, spouse, sibling, or parent: Porch Light is for any who are suffering along with their addicted loved one.

Thrive is an in-depth, whole-health guide (physical, mental, spiritual, and relational wellness) proven to reduce depression, anxiety, improve daily life, and renew your life in Christ so that you have a balanced approach to life.

This class will help you become more resilient through mental health stressors and various life challenges, discovering healthy solutions for your heart and mind.

## PORCH LIGHT

*Led by Brad & Lisa Hyde  
For Loved Ones of Those  
Struggling with Addictions*

*Mondays*

*6:30 pm*

*Starts January 9*

*No Cost*

## THRIVE

*Led by Eric Upton  
Pathway: Care & Support  
For Everyone*

*Mondays*

*6:00 pm*

*Starts January 23*

*No Cost*

# SIGN UP

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

// Through the website: [www.firstwoodway.org/discipleship](http://www.firstwoodway.org/discipleship)

// Call the church office: 254.772.9696

// Via the First Woodway App, under Sign Up  
(To download the app, text APP to 254-845-7835)

// [Click here](#) to go directly to the online registration form

## REGISTER FOR:

THE DWELLING | FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP | MARRIED LIFE: HIGHS & LOWS

These three classes (which do not meet on Wednesday night) have a separate registration form because they include childcare reservations. Those registration forms are available on the website and app. You can also scan the QR code located with the class description in this booklet.

*Jesus said...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
But will have the light of life.*

—JOHN 8:12

