



Big things are coming on February 5th!

At Christ we talk about being a “21st Century Mission Outpost where people are supported, equipped, and launched into ministry, acting locally and impacting globally.” That is an awesome vision that is being realized here at Christ, Costa Mesa. For some time the Elders, Pastor Glenn, and I have been discussing the need to expand our efforts at the equipping element of our vision in order to help the people of Christ develop a deeper faith life for a challenging world and a greater knowledge of God and his Bible, as well as to provide Christ-centered leadership in our homes, neighborhoods, and world. We are convinced that the need is greater than the time we have available during our sermon times. So, we would like to try something different.

We have decided to set aside a nine-week period, February 5th – April 1st to “test drive” an equipping/ study hour on Sunday mornings from 9:20-10:20 AM. This Equipping Hour will include our Sunday School, two different classes offered by Pastor Glenn and me, Sermon-based small group studies, and studies led by a couple of our awesome lay Bible teachers.

Our 8:00 service time will remain the same. The big change is that our current 9:45 worship service will slide back 45 minutes to 10:30. We know that this adjustment is a big deal, particularly for families whose children attend Sunday School while Mom and Dad are in church. We wish we had the ability to offer a children’s ministry program at two different times on a Sunday morning – but that just isn’t possible at this time. We will provide a children’s message at non-communion worship services to assist in engaging the children. We are therefore asking parents to worship with your children as they learn how to “be in church,” watch their parents set an example of worship and commitment to study and equipping, and do something as a family that just doesn’t happen in many churches today – worship together!

I am writing to ask you to do more than *just* adjust your service time. I am also asking that you give the Equipping Hour a try: children to Sunday School and adults to one of the many classes we are offering. We believe that this will greatly deepen our congregation’s spiritual maturity and the ability for individuals, couples and families to live a great life of discipleship, in addition to making a greater impact locally and globally. Please take a look at the course options enclosed, make your selection, fill out the registration form, and turn it in during worship.

Remember, this is a *nine-week trial* that goes through Palm Sunday, April 1. Since our Easter worship schedule is always different so as to accommodate the people who worship with us on Resurrection Day, we will not have an Equipping Hour on April 8th. On the Sunday after Easter, April 15th, we will host a forum to receive your feedback, preferences, and experiences. We will also make available printed and online surveys to assist in making your opinion heard. All this input will be taken into consideration as we determine whether to continue the Equipping Hour.

I ask that you pray for this effort. I am praying for you, that you will see it as an opportunity to grow deeper in your faith and, for those with children at home, to lead them into the joy of worshipping the God of all Creation.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike (Pastor Glenn and the Elders)