



A few years ago, I was reading an article on why young people were not attracted to Christianity and opting to register as “just spiritual”, when asked. One of the leading reasons was their objection to what they perceived as a rigid judgmental attitude in Christians. I get that. The twenty to thirty-something crowd, I’ve found, generally has a much better grasp of Jesus’ “inclusivity” and compassion for the poor than my generation. Another top objection to traditional

Christianity was the sense that religious people weren’t willing to ask honest and probing questions about their faith. They’d bump into resistance like “We just can’t understand God’s Ways”, as if “blind faith” somehow demonstrated a high level of spiritual maturity. The end result was that no meaningful discussion ever takes place. This is sad.

Any religion or spiritual practice worth its salt invites healthy, deep, critical dialogue. Christians originally were known as “people on a road”. Such a label points to the metaphor of a *journey*, a process of growing and learning as you travel life’s path. This necessitates asking questions, wrestling with important stuff, cultivating openness to new ideas, learning to let go of the practices that no longer serve your travels. This is a dialog that requires courage to step into topics that call you to change, to be transformed. No easy road... but the rewards are immeasurable.

In this spirit, I want to invite you to enter into a heartfelt discussion of practical topics that could bring you some positive change. This crazy year of 2020, in all its disruption and anxiety, has also been a catalyst for change. A number of people have questioned some of the assumptions and habits they’ve just taken for granted for a long time. Doubts about the viability of “business-as-usual” have risen to the surface. Maybe this year has felt like being out walleye fishing when suddenly a storm appears, wind and waves violently rocking your boat. And your heart cries out, “Where’s my solid ground?!”

I believe that “solid ground” exists... but it’s not what you might expect.

And it’s not in simple, pat answers that don’t even scratch the surface of vital issues. It is in engaging those issues with boldness and love and clarity. And I believe these important life topics are best approached in the company of friends.

That’s why I am inviting you to journey with us in a discussion/support group we are starting on **Tuesday mornings, 10-11**, beginning **Nov. 3**, in the Church library. We’ll engage topics like: healthy relationships, learning to forgive, living simply, cultivating gratitude, overcoming addiction, balancing work & life, dealing with loss, stress management, and other topics that the group might suggest. It will be a safe place for people to share their stories and ideas, *without judgment*. It will be a place where you can feel support and encouragement for facing the challenges across your path. It will be a place where you can experience the joy of being a helping hand to others. And there’ll be coffee. Good coffee.

For those of you reading this that are unable to attend the morning meeting, I'm asking if you'd be interested in connecting virtually over one of the many meeting platforms, like Google or Facebook or Zoom. I know it's not "high touch" as in-person, but it can be a source of significant support for you, reminding you that you don't have to do it all alone and that you've got people holding you up. Anyway, drop me an email (lighthousechurch906@gmail.com) if you are interested in connecting virtually. Once we have a group of folks, we can set meeting time and which meeting platform works best for us. And just to say, all meetings are open to everybody. You don't have to be a member of Lighthouse or even a Christian or even "spiritual" at all. Just come and you are most welcome!

Traveling with you,

Scott

P.S. Preview upcoming topics on: www.LighthouseChurchDrummondIsland.com. Also, check the website if you'd like to pack a shoebox for a needy child this Christmas (Shoebox collection is Sunday, Nov. 15th).