



# Small Groups Newsletter



## THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

- free! series
- education hour
- next steps
- feeding teens at ualc
- ifi group serve

april

free! indeed

the SPIRIT of the LORD GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

isaiah 61:1

# free!



Our relationship with money is usually difficult. It can be the source of worry, shame, guilt, and tremendous conflict. The only thing more stressful than talking about money is talking about money at church! Nothing about this feels freeing.

And yet the Bible talks about money all the time. Jesus talks about money to his disciples, his opponents, and even strangers who ask him questions. Are we doomed to experience even more burden about money from the Bible?

Or what if we've been listening wrong? Can the Word of God give freedom after all? God has a freedom word to speak to all of us.

As we work through this series together, God's Word (both law and gospel) will lead us to three kinds of freedom:

- Freedom in our hearts and souls. This is an internal freedom that we feel instead of worry and stress.
- Freedom from the things that control us. Think of this like non-obedience to a slave master. We don't have to keep doing things that ultimately hurt us.
- Freedom for a life of goodness and joy. Christian freedom isn't anarchy. It's about being free to live together with God as God intended, for good.

If the Son sets you free you shall be free indeed. For where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

## facilitator guide

For each sermon series, we provide small group a Facilitator Guide that can help you and your group read and discuss the Bible together alongside the passages and themes of our current worship sermon series. These guides are written by a team of authors, using Bible passages, with the hope that they will help you hear and receive the Lord in your time together.

You can find the Facilitator Guide for our Free! series, along with a library of previous series' guides at [ualc.org/smallgroups](http://ualc.org/smallgroups) under the Small Group Resources section.

# adult education: free!

## SUNDAY EVENINGS 4:30 PM AT MILL RUN

Life and the Bible have this in common: they can both seem awfully complicated. Part of growing in Christ together is learning to understand the Bible and how to think through life's questions with Jesus at the center.



Facilitators, extend this invitation to your small groups! Beginning April 7, we will be offering four practical courses which coincide with the sermon series, Free! Together we'll hear the Bible's good news message of Jesus as it gives us freedom in a sensitive but important area of our lives.

April 7 and 14:

“Building a Prayerful, Purposeful Budget,” taught by David Jakes, will focus on how to be a wise steward of the resources God has entrusted to you. [Register here.](#)

April 7 and 14:

“Building Your Plan for Planned Giving” will provide guidance on using your financial legacy to provide for future generations. [Register here.](#)

April 28 and May 5:

David Jakes will lead, “Managing Debt.” This class will focus on how to better manage resources to move towards getting out of debt. [Register here.](#)

April 28 and May 5:

Aaron Thompson will teach, “Embracing Joyful Generosity” which will focus on learning to give from and with a joyful heart. [Register here.](#)

## next steps

### Baptism Class

Second Sundays, 1:00-2:00 pm

We offer the sacrament to members and non-members, children and adults alike. Classes are offered in-person on the second Sunday of every month, 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment. Parents will hear UALC's strategy for partnering with families throughout all the phases from birth to college.

### New Member Class

April 21-May 5, 4:00-5:30 pm,  
Mill Run Campus

The New Member Class is made for those who want to learn more about UALC, meet people, and find out more about joining our community in following Jesus together. Led by our Senior Pastor, campus pastors, and staff, it's the best way to get connected and understand how we are living out our mission and vision.



## feeding teens at ualc

Do you have any cooks in your group? Would you be willing to offer hospitality to students? Does anyone in your group miss their youth group days?

Our youth ministries are looking for volunteers to help prepare meals for our students. Each Sunday after youth group, MSM and HSM volunteers break bread with our students. These leaders find this time of sharing a meal with their students invaluable. They would like to invite your small group to consider providing a meal for them one week this semester. It promises to be as much of a blessing to you as it will be to them. Come and see what the Lord is doing in the lives of the next generation of the church.

Feeding almost 100 mouths can come with an intimidating price tag. We would love to reimburse you if necessary!

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Steve Almquist [salmquist@ualc.org](mailto:salmquist@ualc.org) or Mary Kate Hipp [mhipp@ualc.org](mailto:mhipp@ualc.org)!

## serve with your group

International Friendships, Inc. (IFI) needs volunteers for their EID Celebration

Saturday, April 13, 2024 from  
5:00pm - 8:00pm  
Setup: 2:30pm-5pm,  
Food Service: 4-7pm, and  
Clean up: 7-8:30pm

At the OSU Agricultural Admin Bldg.,  
2120 Fyffe Rd Columbus, 43210 Details at: [Columbus.ifipartners.org/events](http://Columbus.ifipartners.org/events)

If you and/or your group would like to serve with IFI for this event, or any event, you can contact or sign up through email with Leila at: [l.gardner@ifipartners.org](mailto:l.gardner@ifipartners.org)

IFI is a national organization partnering with local churches like UALC, universities, and volunteers to provide life-changing hospitality and friendship to international students. If you would like more information about IFI generally, visit [columbus.ifipartners.org/home](http://columbus.ifipartners.org/home)

