



SG Connect

HIS Family

Lin Sue Yen

Fellowshipping over Sunday lunch with members of HIS Family small group is a highly-recommended experience.

Generous portions of food and drink appear in front of you without you having to lift a finger. All special dietary restrictions (no chilli, less oil, more veggies) can be catered to.

"Food is very important to this small group," Siang Tang tells me in a serious tone while my notebook struggles to find space on a table full of delectable dishes.

HIS Family small group is one year old. The group is an offshoot of the small group, Family Aspirations. Feeling a strong call from God to start a new small group, Tai Keat, who co-leads with Siang Tang, finally took the leap of faith after seeking God for several months.

The four couples meet every other Saturday afternoon at homes of members living in Bukit Timah and Katong. Each session begins with worship, bible study, prayer and then ends with fellowship - over food of course!

Building spiritual disciplines has been a key emphasis for the small group from the beginning. This consists of gaining knowledge of God's Word, applying it in one's life, and developing a strong prayer life. It is through having these disciplines that one can allow oneself to be changed by God - what Christians term as sanctification or transformation. Big words, but all it means is that all of us need to grow up, from being a new believer, to being a changed believer who obeys Jesus' command to go and make disciples.

Prayer is an important part of the life of this small group. There is a time during meetings for all to share prayer requests, followed by praying for one another. This is a meaningful time of encouragement and accountability, where members share deeply on their spiritual condition and struggles. The group also runs a WhatsApp chat, where prayer needs are immediately followed up by saying prayers on the chat line itself. Tai Keat finds this helpful because praying over the chat line shows the person that the group is there to meet

their needs there and then. Prayer ministers to the person in need allowing them to experience the Holy Spirit while they are being prayed for. Praying openly in this way also allows members to learn from one another how to pray.

Several members are old-timers of TMC, while others are newer. Serving together has brought everyone closer together, and allowed the newer members to meet a wider church community. During the mid-autumn festival last year, HIS Family organised a treasure hunt at the Botanic Gardens.

Currently, the group is working through the Navigators study series called Colossians 2:7, which is also part of the TMC Discipleship Roadmap (available at the magazine racks or online at www.tmc.org.sg/dc-7-1.html). To apply what they are learning from the bible study, the group intends to serve together in the upcoming run of the ALPHA Course.

Friendly banter continued across the table as the plates of food gradually emptied. Some members then cheerfully announced that they were off to a badminton session with members of the Hougang small group. With that, my interview ended, but not before I had been blessed with the good food and warm fellowship of this group of brothers and sisters in Christ.

HIS Family welcomes new members, young and old. If you would like to meet up with them over Sunday lunch just to see if this group could be suitable, they would love to meet you.

To join a small group, visit www.tmc.org.sg/smallgroup.html and click on the "Join a Small Group" link where you can provide some basic information to help the SG Committee follow up with you, leave your name with the iSunday Counter, or email colinyjp@gmail.com for more information.



Photo (top left): Members enjoying nature on a tree top hike

Photo (above): HIS Family organised the treasure hunt during the 2014 mid-autumn festival family outing at the Botanic Gardens