



SG CONNECT

JOHN 15:5

Praying, Growing and Serving, Together

By Lim Sue Yien

John 15:5 is one of the newest small groups in TMC. Formed in September 2013, it consists of both young and mature Christians who were looking for a group where they could grow in their faith together.

THEY MET THROUGH PAT...

Every member is linked to the leader Pat in one way or another. Denisz and Desmond moved from another small group, as Pat happens to be their neighbour.

Jasmin and Sam and their three children were baptised in TMC in 2012. Jasmin met a mutual friend of Pat's at a parent-teacher association meeting. With a two-year-old baby boy, they needed a child-friendly small group that could be fit around the children's schedules.

Emily's elder son Jayden sat next to Raphael (Pat's son) on the bus to Kuantan. The two boys got along so well during the church camp that Emily was allowed to transfer to Pat's group.

ON PRAYING...

The praying started even before the group was formalised. Pat prayed and actively sought God for a name for the group. The verse John 15:5 came to from her devotions and was repeated in the sermon on a Sunday. It was also a simple verse to recall. Most of all, it would be a constant reminder to her group members of their identity in Christ and relationships with one another.

Instead of praying for themselves, the group finds greater joy praying for friends and family. They run a whatsapp prayer chat, where all can be updated on current prayer needs. The way that God has answered their prayers has assured them that God is indeed walking life's journey with them. A friend of Jasmin's was diagnosed with stage four cancer, and even though the prognosis sounded poor, the group felt that God wanted them to pray boldly for healing. Healing did come.

Denisz and Desmond faced a problem of not being able to hire employees, and here God provided too. They pray regularly for unsaved family members, and even here they are encouraged that God will answer in His own perfect time.



ON GROWING...

Two Sundays a month, two small groups meet in the home of Sam and Jasmin. In one group, four ladies and three men fellowship, pray, share their lives and study the Word together. In the other group, six active boys aged two to seven, play together in the retrofitted living room made to look like a kindergarten, with tables, chairs, toys, lots of space for children to play in, and not a sharp corner or breakable item in sight!

The first thing that the group wanted to do was to ensure that everyone shared the same spiritual fundamentals. Each member wanted to deepen his or her relationship with God. Even though they had different levels of spiritual maturity, all had the same basic questions such as "How do I speak to God?", "How do I hear God?" As a result, they decided to work through the "Designed for Discipleship" series developed by the Navigators. Jasmin has been encouraged to "think deeper" about her faith, while Emily is pleasantly surprised to "find something new" every time even though she's not a young Christian. Being in a similar age group, everyone tackles the issues with the same energy and enthusiasm. Pat observes that although the series is simply written, Christians of all maturity levels can apply what they learn from studying the material. After all, every Christian needs to know his or her identity in Christ and who he or she is in the eyes of God.

ON SERVING...

For this group, bearing fruit is about service. And it comes from a heart filled with gratitude, not obligation. When the urgent call was made for children's clothes for Cambodian children affected by the floods, bags were deposited in the church premises within 24 hours, including several bags from the members of John 15:5. The group also volunteered themselves and their children as choir and cast members for the Star of Christmas stage performance.

Though still feeling their way as a new small group, these disciples of Christ act and speak as one life linked together by praying, growing and serving.

