

UNBINDING YOUR SOUL - PLAN FOR CLASSES AND SERMONS
YEAR OF INVITATION (UNBINDING YEAR II)

Use in conjunction with Year of Invitation Leaders' Guide and the Soul Sabbatical Sermons, downloadable at www.GraceNet.info / Download Resources

August 28, 2012

Here's how the sermons relate to the SOUL chapters for groups who had Lenten E-vents and who are heading into fall *Unbinding Your SOUL* leadership groups and Spring '13 Soul Sabbaticals.

Sermons are numbered in the order of their USE, not in correlation with the chapters!

IF YOUR CHURCH HAD A SPRING/LENTEN E-VENT

WHEN	WHO	TIME	GROUP SIZE	SOUL CHPTS.	SERMONS
Fall	Leaders	8 weeks	All leaders together, maintain prayer partners, rotate discussion partners for exercises	1-8	None
Pre-Lent	Whole church	3 weeks	All worshippers	None	1, 2, 3 ("Faith and Courage" sermons)
Lent – the "Soul Sabbatical"	Small groups of church members and unchurched friends, led by fall leaders. Whole church in worship	4 weeks	8-10 in small groups, plus two leaders	1-4	4, 5, 6 ("The Experiment" Sermons - preached AFTER groups have studied <i>Soul</i> chpts. 2, 3, 4
Post-Lent – (Pentecost?) groups <i>can</i> continue	Small groups formed in Lent for Soul Sabbatical	4 weeks	8-10 in small groups, plus two leaders	4-8	None

Fall E-vent churches, see next page.

IF YOUR CHURCH HAD A FALL E-VENT

WHEN	WHO	TIME	GROUP SIZE	SOUL CHPTS.	SERMONS
Pre-Lent and Lent	Leaders	8 weeks	All leaders together, maintain prayer partners, rotate discussion partners for exercises	1-8	None
Early Fall	Whole church	3 weeks	All worshippers	None	1, 2, 3 (“Faith and Courage” sermons)
October or November – the “Soul Sabbatical”	Small groups of church members and unchurched friends, led by fall leaders. Whole church in worship	4 weeks	8-10 in small groups, plus two leaders	1-4	4, 5, 6 (“The Experiment” sermons - preached AFTER groups have studied <i>Soul</i> chpts. 2, 3, 4
Advent or January - groups <i>can</i> continue	Small groups formed for Soul Sabbatical	4 weeks	8-10 in small groups, plus two leaders	4-8	None

Now we’ll say it in words!

Unbinding Your Soul will help you all actually **do** the inviting that you have been praying and talking about during your studies of *Unbinding the Gospel* and *Unbinding Your Heart*. Begin with a big leaders’ group (NOT small groups) the “first semester” of Unbinding Year II, your Year of Invitation. Then the next “semester,” you can have another all-church small group study to which you invite unchurched friends.

Use the first three sermons (#1, 2, 3) before you ask the congregation to invite people into the Soul Sabbatical. The Soul Sabbatical itself [where your small groups of members and visitors study chapters 1-4 of *Unbinding Your Soul* (“The Experiment”) and then listen to sermons 4, 5, 6] is four weeks long, rather than the six weeks of the *Unbinding Your Heart* E-vent. SOUL groups that would like to keep going can continue to the 2nd half of SOUL (“Faith and Courage,” chapters 5-8) after the Soul Sabbatical.

*Schedule for churches that have done Spring/Lenten E-vents
(Fall E-vent churches should reverse timing, as shown in table above):*

(FALL) Leadership group with all of your potential leaders, in one large group, led by pastor(s) - they may split it into multiple leadership groups when numbers exceed 50 participants, but keep the group big to avoid small group “fusion” dynamics. These leaders have one prayer partner throughout the study. They study Chapters 1-8. Group exercises are conducted in smaller groups, but these groups change each week to avoid too much small group coherence developing. We want to keep these leaders focused on leadership and a larger church identity. Leaders: reinforce leadership identity weekly (“we’re going to lead the church and others we don’t even know yet next spring during the Soul Sabbatical”), and have prayer partners (who will be leading together) to rotate as a unit with other pairs of prayer partners to do each week’s exercises. *Don't use any sermons at this time.*

(pre-LENT) Sermons 1, 2, 3 (the "Faith and Courage sermons") in January or February, to help everyone in the church to prepare to invite friends into the Soul Sabbatical groups during Lent. Preaching these sermons, which relate to the last half of SOUL will refresh the ideas for the leadership group that has already studied these chapters and help them invite unchurched friends into their groups. It doesn't matter that most of the church hasn't studied the chapters relating to these sermons. It will be a pre-view for those who study these chapters AFTER Lent and a review for the leaders. *No book study going on at this time.*

(LENT) SOUL SABBATICAL (“The Experiment”). All small groups, led by pairs of leaders from the fall (some of these could be neighborhood-based groups) **study chapters 1-4. Sermons 4, 5, 6** relate to themes in those first four chapters. Preach them AFTER chapters 2,3,4.

(POST-LENT) Many groups will want to keep going. Let them move straight into the second half of *Unbinding Your SOUL*, **chapters 5-8 (Faith and Courage)**, on their own timing, or all groups together if it works better for people's schedules. **If they want, these groups can then invite more friends into Chapters 1-4.** Unchurched people invited into the Lenten groups may well be ready to bring in larger numbers of unchurched friends. They will tend to have less hesitancy in invitation. No sermons go with this, because you've already used them. (You might video the sermons during January and upload them to YouTube (*please acknowledge the source by citing Unbinding Your Soul and link to the GraceNet.info website*), then furnish the link to group participants for their review.)