

STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

“To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ”

SMALL GROUPS MAKING BIG DIFFERENCES

With changing seasons come changes on our campus. Seeing seniors leave and the excitement of new Gappers brings joy to all involved. One of the most personal and profound experiences students have in Standing in the Gap is the small groups. This semester both chapters had fruitful small groups going through both Network and Foundations. The small groups were able to strengthen relationships between students and between God.

It is amazing to see what God can use to build His people. As both chapters close out their small groups for the semester, some of the group leaders shared their experiences. Thank you for your support to Standing in the Gap through your prayers and contributions. A difference for Christ is being made.



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

-Natalie Norris; Standing in the Gap
Communications Manager



NETWORKS SMALL GROUP

By Luke Gorlich and Shelby Brant

This past week our small group finished networks! It was the first time Grace and I, Shelby, were able to lead a small group and it was fantastic! We were able to reinforce the ideas behind us, using the gifts we have all been given to glorify God and edify others! One of the favorite topics we talked about, along with that concept, was living for an audience of one. We worked to remind ourselves that we are not using our spiritual gifts to “show off” to others but rather serving with obedience to honor God and bring glory to Him and Him alone.



In this network study, something that stood out to me more than when I first took network was how joyful everyone was when finding positions to serve that fit their giftings the best. It was powerful to see the excitement on everyone's faces when they found ways they could serve and use their gifts! Having the opportunity to lead, a small group is beautiful, because you get to relearn the content and maintain a deeper understanding of our gifts and how to best serve The Kingdom. We already look forward to our next small group!



NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY NETWORKS SMALL GROUP

By Luke Gorlich

Northwood University:

My name is Luke Gorlich, and I lead the “Networks” small group for Standing in the Gap. We meet at Live Oak Coffeehouse in Midland on Monday afternoons at 4:30. As a senior, I have gotten used to having on-campus groups. However, after participating in a bible study in a bustling suburb close to home, I wanted to get our students off-campus. This is where the Live Oak idea came to light. I introduced this concept with Foundations, and I believe this is why 80% of these students have transferred over to Networks! There is just a different vibe associated with meeting in a non-academic environment such as Live Oak!

The network follows a very “structured yet open discussion” format. We follow the book by Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins, which includes topics such as spiritual gifts, love, and serving others. We also have been known to talk about other topics such as baptism and exorcism. In Networks, both Mikaela (my co-leader) and I have worked very hard to build an environment where people can express their honest thoughts and questions!

One of the things I enjoy about Network is the ease of understanding that comes with the course. Each student is given a participant’s guide (free of charge) with numerous fill-in-the-blank answers designed to keep them on track during the lesson. Each lesson lasts approximately an hour in a half, which allows individuals to be back in Northwood by 6:00 for their evening classes. 90 minutes is the sweet spot for a small group because it is not so long that people get bored and not so short that we are forced to skip over information. I’ve said this before, but it has been an absolute blast leading Network, and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

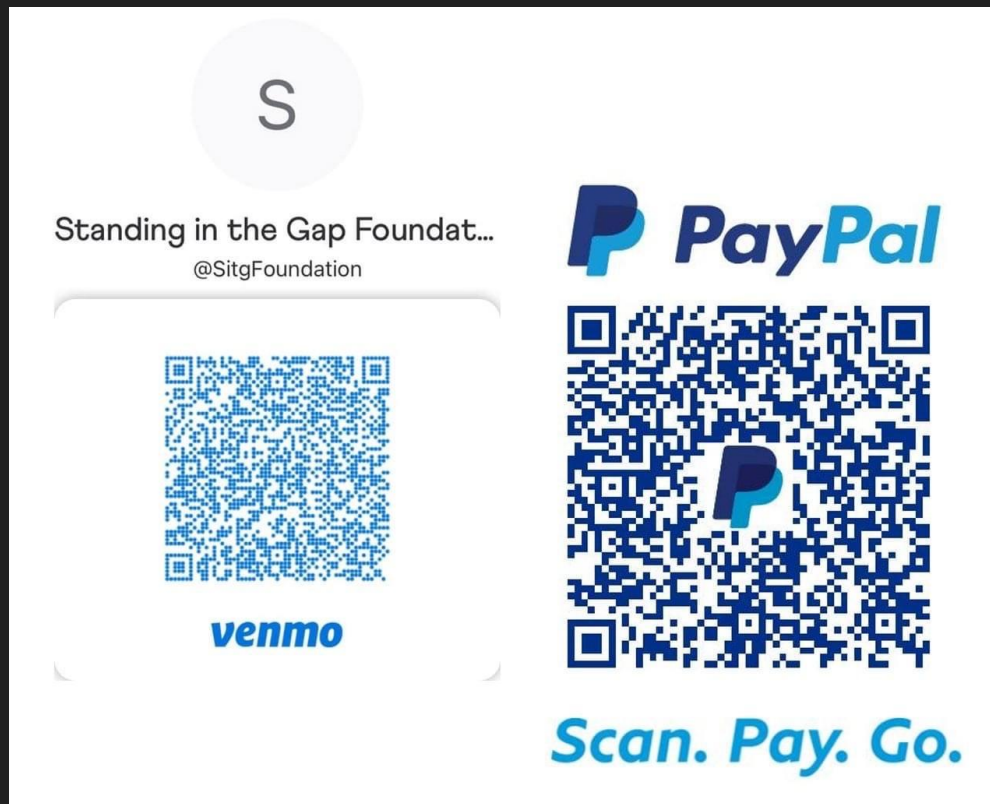


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