



Vantage Point

You were made for Him – fully known and truly loved!
October 2015

This Month's Gospel Message

Personal Message from Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Our mission seeks to extend God's grace to all adults and help them explore and mature in their faith. We have 12 small groups for maturing in faith. Our small groups are centered on the Scriptures but they are much more than Bible studies. Small groups are a proven format for ministry to adults, regardless of the current strength of their faith. Carefully crafted questions raised by a particular passage of Scripture are uniquely effective in stimulating discussion of real life situations. The timeless relevance of God's word brings clarity of direction and God's power to the challenges we all face in our relationships and circumstances.

Reaching the 5 – C's

We work with adults from a variety of places. I describe them as the 5-C's: adults who are couples or from corporations, churches, campuses, or corners. In the corners of a community are those who have been marginalized by homelessness, incarceration, poverty, guilt, or shame. We have been asked to teach at the Northampton County Prison on Monday mornings on a weekly basis to work with 20 to 25 men for the past few years. The response to God's word has been so great that the prison is now expanding our work and others into the women's population. The prison has asked us to address the issues of anger, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

Thank you.

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Jesus addressed every adult's need of forgiveness in His ministry to a paralyzed man. Jesus was speaking in a house when a group of men brought their paralyzed friend to Him in the hope that Jesus would heal him. The house was filled to capacity. Determined to get their friend to Jesus, they climbed onto the roof, removed some of it, and lowered him down before Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven." What? This must have surprised everyone. Obviously, they had brought the disabled man for physical healing. Jesus, however, had spoken to the man's greater need...the need to be forgiven for his sins. The religious leaders scoffed at Jesus. "Who does He think He is?" "This is blasphemy!" "Only God can forgive sins." They got that right! But they were wrong in their understanding of Jesus. He proved that He had power to forgive sins by telling the paralyzed man to get up and walk. The man got up and walked. Everyone was amazed!

Jesus, the Son of God, has the authority to forgive sins, because He came to die for the sins of those who believe in Him.

Most adults have little understanding of forgiveness until they come to genuine faith. I am surprised by the many couples that I counsel and others who have never

asked for forgiveness from one another. They often think a mere "I'm sorry!" is enough. However, depending on the motivation, tone, scope, and intent, this may just be a quick fix from wrongdoing. Another ministry developed what I call the Seven-Steps to Asking for Forgiveness. I find them very thorough and helpful for my friends at



the prison and in all our small groups.

7 – Steps to Forgiveness

- Address everyone involved
- Avoid the words if, but, maybe, perhaps
- Admit specifically what you did
- Acknowledge the hurt
- Accept the consequences
- Altar your behavior
- Ask for forgiveness

Granting forgiveness is costly – someone must absorb the debt. Asking for forgiveness must be genuine, otherwise it escalates the original debt. Ultimately, Jesus absorbed the debt that we all owe. However, true maturity in faith is found in helping others to come to faith, and learning to ask for and extend His forgiveness.

Vantage Point

You were made for Him – fully known and truly loved!
October 2015

Mission Update

Adult Life is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry relying on private support — and your generosity. Your gifts are investments in the biblical counseling, discipleship, and evangelism of people who may have little hope, and need more faith. Please consider joining us now with a monthly investment. Adult Life is now doing business as Vantage Point Ministries – Enjoying Life from the Vantage Point of God’s Grace. Use the enclosed coupon and envelope and make checks payable to “Vantage Point” or “Adult Life.”

Thank you! We are blessed by your friendship and support.

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Another important aspect of our ministry is the discipleship of others to become volunteers in our ministry. I have trained several already to go with me into the Northampton County Prison.



Prayer for local mission with adults...

Eric and Jenny Johnson

Extending God’s grace to all adults and helping them explore and mature in faith

Men and Women meeting in small groups will grow in grace

Counseling Clients will experience His power, love, and resurrection

Eric’s doctorate work on evangelism in the church

Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults

Adult Life, Inc. – 4416 Greenfield Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017
ericjohnsonlv@hotmail.com
484-554-9129