

Felecia Davenport – Reach More Witness Talk

Good morning, my name is Felecia Davenport. I am here today to share my Reach More small group experience with you. As I reflected, prayed, and prepared to share my 2019 Lenten journey, I questioned, as I often do, why me Lord. I'm sure I heard them say, there are 100 (+) small group participants. Many that have been OMC parishioners much longer than I, why would they want to hear from me. Then I remember words shared during one of our small group engagements...God hasn't given us a heart of fear. And with that I began to walk through God's word.

- **Philippians 4:6-7**, reminding me NOT to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your mind, in Christ Jesus.
- Proverbs 3:5-8, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths
- Hebrews 13.6, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"
- Philippians 4:13, I can do all this through Christ, which strengthens me.

With renewed confidence, here I am, in humble obedience, ready to share my 2019 Lenten Journey.

Sharing Lenten journey:

As I share my journey through my Small Group participation, I was asked to answer four questions;

1. What did my spiritual walk look like prior to entering the small group?

I have always been connected to God. As a small child He was my best friend. I would spend hours talking to him every night, about anything and everything. I was a child, He was friend. I was mimicking my parent's behavior. But as I got older, I spent less and less time with my friend. I remained connected through prayer, but not connecting with Him through His word. Except in times of crisis. But I longed for that closeness I had as a little girl, the feeling He provides when I am in crisis. So, I have been consistently connecting to God but not always connecting with God.

2. What inspired me to enter a small group?

As stated, I wanted to be continually connecting with God, not just in moments of crisis. I spoke to one of my spiritual mentors about this, and we examined what was different in those moments of connectivity. I come to God with a humble heart, recognizing I am in need of His grace, and I willing to submit...just show me what you

will have me to do Lord. My mentor said, so in those moments you draw nearer to God. That's your answer, look around you, see what God is doing and join Him. Draw nearer to God and He will draw nearer to you.

3. *What happened... specifically, did God touch your life through this small group?*

Yes, I was humbled, I am more conscientious and accountable of those things I do that do NOT align with God's teachings.

4. **How has this encounter changed me for the better or deepened my relationship with God?**

I am reconnecting with God. I'm once again conscious of His presence.

I have drawn near to God and He is drawn near to you - James 4:8