

(Matthew 7:7) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For all the trials that my husband, Dennis, and I had been going through, it never occurred to me how God would come to use us for a greater plan. I had been praying for healing in our relationship and had frequently been going to church and talking with other couples on how to keep a relationship healthy. One of the resources God led me too were friends from church, Will and Ashley Smith. As it turns out, they had been active in a marriage ministry program at their previous

congregation and were able to explain to me the process, structure, and overall rewarding experience that such a small group can offer.

I'm very fortunate to be a part of such an accepting and welcoming congregation. Almost as soon as Will and Ashley had finished explaining this idea to me, I had already begun to, admittedly somewhat enthusiastically; asked for names of couples from our church that were interested in participating in a marriage ministry. Both relief and terror hit me as I realized that the majority of the couples at our church had signed up. Luckily, there were many natural leaders in the group and we were able to devise a system of pods or small groups, in which we would study, fellowship, and grow together on the first Saturday of each month in order to "encourage each other and build each other up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

From then on, we have been steadily growing our ministry through the efforts of all of our members. We try and urge that no one buy into the misconception that there has to be a problem in your marriage to attend a meeting. It is the same principle as eating right, studying, or exercising. Our goal is to strengthen both the couple and the individual to be able to find solutions to problems that everyone faces when trying to build a healthy relationship, instead of attempting to fix problems as they occur. The ministry helps to provide a guidepost of perspective from our many backgrounds, so that through Christ we are able to keep the marriage in each other's lives strong, for it is said to "get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise for the rest of your life." (Proverbs 19:20)

Our group comes from Keller Come and See SDA Church. We're located at 9500 Ray White Road, Suite 101, Fort Worth, Texas. We are currently progressing through a great book, *Men are like Waffles, Women are like Spaghetti* by Bill and Pam Farrel. Couples for Christ pods meet once a month on the first Saturday of every month. Listed below are our pods and locations. If you're interested in joining a pod or have any questions please contact Kelly Thomas at **817-808-0250** or by email at <u>cpls4christ@gmail.com</u>

A. South Fort Worth - Burleson (South of I-30); leaders: Enrique and Eva Iguaran

- B. Keller West (North of I-30 and West of 377); leaders: Peter and Maria Sciampia
- C. Keller East Roanoke 1 (East of 377); leaders: Dennis and Kelly Thomas
- D. Keller East Roanoke 2 (East of 377); leaders: Edgar and Gladys Rivera

You may also find us on social media using the links below. <u>https://www.facebook.com/Cpls4Christ</u> <u>https://www.instagram.com/cpls4Christ</u> <u>https://twitter.com/Cpls4Christ</u> <u>https://www.pinterest.com/Cpls4Christ</u>



Dennis & Kelly Thomas