

the gillespies and the Good News



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KICKIN' OFF THE YEAR

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The school year has started, oh boy, has it started! We have had an exciting last few weeks, unpacking into our new home, getting reacquainted with New Hampshire, and meeting *lots* of students. Thank you for praying for our beginning-of-year activities—they've been going great! Our first meeting to welcome the freshmen (or 13s, as Dartmouth students call them, in reference to their graduation year of 2013) saw 60 freshmen come out, and they've kept on coming! Some enthusiastic, devoted upperclassmen are leading Bible studies for these 13s, and lots of students, especially the sophomores (the 12s), are spending many hours trying to reach out to these new students and provide an community and a spiritual home for them.

Some of the student leaders in our ministry (left to right): Bethany, Diane, Emily, Jen, Emily, Amy



INVESTIGATING JESUS

One way that we are reaching out to students is through a new Bible study I (Faye) am leading about Jesus. We had originally conceived of this study as being a place for students (men and women, all classes) who don't have a Christian background to dig into the Bible and learn about Jesus together. The group that has emerged is actually a mix of this kind of student and students who grew up in the Church, but are now very confused about what they believe. We're going to be spending time each week (1) looking at an episode from Jesus' life together and (2) discussing articles we each read during the previous week about a question that we have. This week we'll be looking at Luke 4:18-19 where Jesus tells his hometown what his mission is, and talking about whether the Bible is actually trustworthy or inspired by God.

I am thrilled to be leading this study! This is so much of what I dream of in ministry... wrestling through real issues of faith with students and asking God to show up in their lives. I'm also very scared—it's risky to get this group together and let them ask whatever they want. I don't have the answers to many of their questions, so it's a big faith venture for me to face their doubts and skepticism head-on and trust God to care for their hearts and souls. Please pray for all of us on Wednesday evenings (8pm Eastern Time).

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Our relationships with God:* That we would seek Him wholeheartedly and desire Him more than anything else
- *Our relationships with one another:* That God would give us wisdom and grace in caring for our marriage as we start this new phase of life with its new schedule, friends, home, and ministry
- *Jason's transition into campus ministry:* That he'd learn quickly and be courageous to take risks and give himself lots of grace to not do it perfectly
- *For the students we're meeting:* Faye's Bible study on Wed nights, the new class of 13s, the guys in the SigEp fraternity
- *Praise God for how well Faye's mom is doing:* She's recovering very, very well from her heart surgery!