

What is Taking Back Ground?

Taking Back Ground Begins October 3rd

Applications Now Being Accepted



Please Call or E-mail for More Information



Taking Back Ground is a two-year discipleship program designed for people struggling with homosexuality. The name is not arbitrary. Many times in life, the ground we walk on seems uncertain. We have lost our bearings, perhaps feeling driven, lost, or on an uphill climb that never summits. We may be walking where we were never intended to walk. Resting in Christ as our firm foundation is what we all long for. Yet the person struggling with homosexual desires has been told by the world at large that they must give in to those longings, that they will never be happy unless they do. Taking Back Ground (TBG) creates an environment in which a person can step away from that lie and walk instead toward a redemptive God who will not reject them, no matter what the temptation. It allows them to “take back” their true identities in Christ as His sons and daughters.

The first section of TBG is entitled *Understanding Homosexuality* and focuses on laying the groundwork for the rest of the year. Participants explore how their struggle developed by looking at factors common in men and women. Additionally, we review what the Bible has to say about homosexuality with a focus on redemption rather than condemnation. Next we focus on the fact that God designed us to be in relationship with other human beings. In an effort to survive or protect against past and future hurts, barriers to relationship are inadvertently established. Participants are encouraged to scrutinize those barriers so that they can be free to have healthy relationships. Finally, we focus on the process of transformation.

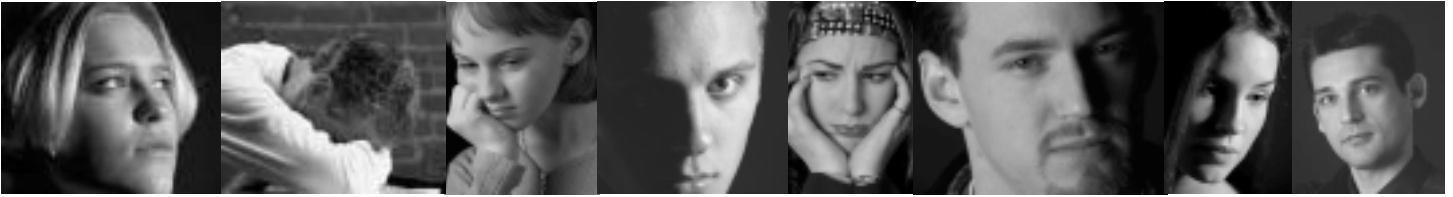
Knowing God in Our Struggle is the objective of the second section. Some misconceptions about relationship with God are explored with the intent of finding the truth. We take an accurate look at God’s plan of redemption and the journey of relationship with God. Next we examine mistaken beliefs about the nature of our Father God, and our own replacements for God in the form of idols. As lies are replaced with truth, it enables participants to focus on intimacy with Christ. Once those foundations are established, we give attention to strengthening the will to do right and taking on identity in Christ, instead of other identities.

The last section of year one explores some of the difficult steps required to continue *Walking Out the Process*. Participants look at past hurts and traumas that have influenced the way they relate with others, with the goal of

resolving those past issues. We discuss forgiveness and reconciliation with an emphasis on their true intent. Participants learn to walk victoriously by examining the nature of temptation. Finally, we investigate the first of many healthy patterns: accountability with others. The second year of Taking Back Ground continues to look at healthy patterns.

At the end of two years, a TBG participant has walked through many passages of Scripture, explored past experiences and misconceptions, and experienced times of equipping. It is an intense, yet rewarding two years. The journey does not stop there. From the healthy patterns begun in those two years, a participant can look forward to continual growth in the greater body of Christ.

TBG Alumni share about the program




Walking in the door for the first night of Taking Back Ground was one of the most terrifying things I have ever done. Simply showing up revealed my struggle, exposing all those things I had worked so hard to hide for most of my life. Not to mention, if I heard one more time how God hates homosexuality, I would explode! Then there was the small group. The idea of sitting in a group of guys my age — people who in the past caused only hurt — was physically sickening. All this fear was encased in a desperate sense of hopelessness. It turns out my biggest fears were the greatest gifts God blessed me with over the last 2 years. I didn't walk into a group of people ready to judge and condemn me. I found a loving group of people who knew where I was coming from and were able to see me through the eyes of grace, not the sin that had a hold on my life. The lessons were kind messages of God's unconditional love and grace that He extends to even me. God had always been a distant judge ready to condemn. I learned He is The Loving Father, ready to forgive, love, and guide me to be the person He designed me to be. The small group was without a doubt my greatest joy. Hearing their hearts, knowing I was not alone, and for the first time really relating in a healthy way. Now I have an amazing support group of friends. My desperation is still there but now it's fulfilled by my Father's love, acceptance, and grace, giving me hope for the future.

— Daniel

These last two years of Taking Back Ground have been among the most challenging and most rewarding in the midst of an ongoing struggle. Before the program, I was an angry and depressed person. In the program, I discovered that struggling with homosexuality is much more than a sexual issue. It is actually an even deeper emotional issue. By far the most valuable thing this program has to offer is that it teaches a person to understand what is really going on inside. Week after week I brought my experiences, memories, and emotions to my small group. This was something I never had a chance to do before while living a life of complete isolation and not telling anyone that I even struggled with this. And, every week as I was challenged in looking at where my feelings came from, I started to see the root of the pain and ultimately why I felt the way I did. God has created us with a mind and body, but we don't automatically know how either works. TBG shows you how God intended His creation to operate and to grow. Once you understand the way God created you and begin to live in light of that, you start to enjoy living again. Now I understand what Jesus meant when He said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Do I still struggle? Right now I do. But where I am now is like night and day from where I was, and putting up the fight even longer has only offered a greater sense of healing, hope, and peace.


— Joe



Open Group

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 @ 7:00pm
 LifeSpring FourSquare Church, 1495 NW 20th Street, Corvallis

A time for family, friends, strugglers, and others to find out more about Mid-Valley Fellowship. Is change possible? How does change happen? Aren't people born gay? Please join us as we share together.






Financial Partnership


Mid-Valley Fellowship is supported primarily through private donations. There are 3 simple ways to give:

- 1) Gifts of Cash**
Can be mailed using a response envelope.
- 2) Gifts through Online Bill Pay**
Many financial institutions offer free Bill Pay. Save a stamp. Give a regular or one-time gift.
- 3) Gifts by Credit Card**
Through partnership with PayPal, we can now accept gifts by credit card.



Pray With Us

Lord, there is no way for us to live out the kind of love You ask of us without Your help. You've drawn us to You with Your perfect love, and we so imperfectly give it back. Help us today to love You and love others better, especially those we feel don't deserve it.



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