

Web site brings worshippers to Bible group

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Rich and Jennifer Evans started Leominster Bible Talk in the spring of 2005, shortly after they moved to Leominster from New Hampshire.

Rich Evans, a software engineer, said he grew up Catholic, but didn't really explore his Christianity until he was in his 20s.

"I was the youngest of 10, we took up a whole pew in church," he said. "But I was really skeptical when my sister joined a Bible study group. I was the lead singer in a heavy-metal band at the time, and religion wasn't really my thing. It wasn't until I saw that people were genuinely applying Bible teachings to their lives, when I saw that people were really doing it, I knew I could."

Jennifer Evans, who works for a manufacturing company had a similar experience before she met Rich in 1986, she said.

"I was close to the Bible, but I hadn't really read it," she said. "I was in college, I was a good student, I had lots of friends, to the outside observer I had everything.

But I knew there had to be more to life. I was not a praying person at the time, but I heard about a Bible study, and I knew I had to go."

The couple, who have three children - ages 5, 7 and 9 - started Leominster Bible Talk as a way to reach out to neighbors at their Valley View Road home.

"We've had people in their 80s and people in their teens, and people from all different religious backgrounds," Rich Evans said. "We've had up to 20 people in our living room during a single meeting."

Strangers have even contacted them via the Internet to join the group, he said.

The Evans' Web site, leominsterbibletalk.com, pops up second in a Google search for "Bible study MA" - out of 8.9 million options.

"All my Christian life I've tried to reach out to people, but at first I was hesitant about the online component," Jennifer Evans said. "A Web site seems so impersonal. But the Internet is how people do everything now. I've made some new friends through it."