



### What is a Home Community (HC)?

The focus of HCs is to develop a *family of servant missionaries that multiply*. But how can we do this like Jesus did with His disciples?

### Gospel Centered Church:<sup>1</sup> GOD moves into the neighborhood through you –

The Scriptures we look at each week have the goal to empower groups to become families serving each other and together as missionaries (in your neighborhoods and networks) to share the Gospel.

## Gospel Centered Church: GOD moves into the neighborhood through you

*When you think of church, what comes to mind?*



*How did the primitive church think of church?*

*Acts 2:42* They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*What does it take to be a biblical church?*

"All essential elements of the church are embryonically present in this early fourfold description of the church: apostolic doctrine, community, sacrament, and common worship." – Thomas C. Oden<sup>2</sup>

*Why should attending church be a regular commitment?*

### Intro Questions

1. What images does the word "church" evoke for you?
2. What is necessary for a church to be a church? What is unnecessary?

### Week 7: The Priority of People [Read Acts 2:42-47]

3. **Observe:** What does this passage *imply* as being necessary for church?
4. **Interpret:** What does "They devoted themselves to..." mean? (v. 42)
5. **Apply:** Are there ways in which our church (our HC) can simplify in order for people to devote themselves to what is described in Acts 2:42-47?

### Children's Church application questions: Luke 19:1-10

1. Zacchaeus experienced such a major change in just a short period of time. What about Jesus could cause such a change in people?
2. Have you ever felt rejected? Does Jesus reject anyone? When people in the church reject people, how does that make Jesus look?
3. Read Romans 15:7. Who do you need to show acceptance to? How can you share Jesus with someone who doesn't feel accepted?

<sup>1</sup> This sermon series is inspired by *Gospel Centered Church* by Steve Timmis & Tim Chester. The sermons are based on the Pastor's research; the questions are from the book.

<sup>2</sup> *Life in the Spirit, Systematic Theology: Vol. 3*, p. 261.

**Defining Church:** A called-out group of people who have covenanted together under Jesus' authority, to band together for Jesus' mission.

## 1. Church is a called-out group of people:

**Church** = Ek-klesia → assembly or congregation

- Ek = "out from"
- Klesia = "to be called by a herald to assemble"

OT "Church" → Ekklesia and Synogoge are synonymous in OT

- Assembly of Covenant Community of Israel = Congregation of Israel that devoted themselves to Yahweh, to His Covenant, to each other (Deut. 5:6; 9:10-11)
- Congregate to:
  - Witness Revelation of God in prophecy/scripture – preaching
  - Receive God's Commandments of Scripture – teaching
  - Keep corporate watch over follow-up to Covenant – accountability
  - Keep corporate purity – Sacrifice for cleansing of sin
  - Corporate worship – Sacrifice, singing, prayer
  - Judicial assembly – church discipline
- Synagoge (Synagogue) vs. Ekklesia (Church)

### *Why not call a Christian church a Synagogue?*

- NT Synagogue = place & event to focus on Jewish Law & Tradition
- NT Church = place & event to focus on Proclaiming the Gospel [freedom from Law & Tradition], which brings salvation in Jesus.

NT "Church" → there is continuity between the OT and NT...

*Matt. 16:18* [Jesus said] "...on this rock I will build my church..."

- Jesus is the "herald" who calls people out from this world...

*How does Jesus call people out to Himself today?*

## 2. A church covenants together under Jesus' authority, to band together for Jesus' Mission.

*Matt. 28:18* And Jesus came and said to them [Apostles], "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples..."

*Acts 2:42* They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

*Rom. 12:5* so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

### *So what if a group wants to go plant a church?*

*Acts 11:20* But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch...preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed... <sup>22</sup> The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. <sup>26b</sup> For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people...

### *What are key elements that make a healthy church?*

"To be a church (as distinct from any gathering of individuals with a common interest) it has to be people in relationship with God and each other who meet together. The purpose of that gathering...is to hear the word of God—the gospel—so that they might know how to live as God's covenant people." – Steve Timmis

#### ▪ Congregate:

- Regularly meet as an event for proclamation of the gospel.
- To herald the Lordship of Christ & proclaim His coming.
- To band together as members of covenant community for mission.
- To offer the world reconciliation with GOD.
- To call for people to place themselves under the Lordship of Jesus.
- To recognize together, Jesus is the Head of the Church.
- To follow the leadership who lead local congregations.
- To band together as "family" as brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Defining Church:** A called-out group of people who have covenanted together under Jesus' authority, to band together for Jesus' mission.



## CONNECT

**Welcome to Grace!** Thanks for joining us today. Feel free to bring your coffee into worship and make yourself comfortable. Take a deep breath, clear your head, and prepare your heart and mind to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace Church is committed to living authentically in relationship with God and others. Together we strive to meet the needs here and around the world. To learn more, grab a booklet from the desk in the foyer.

If you would like us to follow up with you, feel free to fill out this form, tear it out and drop it at the Welcome Center or in the offering plate.

today's date

name

I am a guest of

address

phone

phone (cell)

email

- How to begin a relationship with Jesus
- Want to know more about Grace
- Interested in joining a Group
- Interested in serving at Grace (if so where?) \_\_\_\_\_
- Address/info change
- Add me to the church email list
- Interested in baptism
- Interested in membership

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 7:00 am Prayer in the Upper Room
- 8:00 am HC Leaders Meeting - *foyer*
- 8:30 am Women's Discipleship Group- *rm 123*
- 10:00 am WORSHIP CELEBRATION - *sanctuary*  
1st-5th will be dismissed to Kid's Church  
*Kid's bulletins available in the foyer*
- 12:00 pm R.A.T. Meeting - *conference room*
- 6:30 pm High School HC- *Ramsell's*

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

*Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm*

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

*Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm*

- 7:00 am Prayer in the Upper Room

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

*Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm*

- 4:30-6p Awana Games Practice
- 6:30 pm Solving Problems Biblically - *rm 129*
- 6:30 pm Awana Clubs
- 6:30 pm Youth Group

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

*Church Office open 9 am to 4 pm*

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

*Church Office closed*

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

*Church Office closed*

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 7:00 am Prayer in the Upper Room
- 10:00 am WORSHIP CELEBRATION - *sanctuary*
- 6:30 pm High School HC- *Ramsell's*

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

*Church Office closed - President's Day observed*

- 7:00 am Youth Boy's Snowshoe Trip
- 9:30 am MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

#### BUDGET THRU 02/05/2017

We are -\$ 55,001.04 BELOW  
our anticipated YTD giving.  
BUDGET YTD \$368,649.28  
GIVING YTD \$313,648.19  
We are at 85% of budget

*GRACE CHURCH exists to LOVE God & people,  
PROCLAIM Christ, BUILD community,  
EQUIP the saints, MULTIPLY ministers,  
and missionally SEND out followers of Christ to  
be the Church wherever we are.*

## EVANGELISM IN WHITE CENTER

This afternoon, for anyone wanting to walk the streets in prayer and reach out to people in the name of Jesus, Pastor Ryan will meet you today at 2:00pm at Grace. From here we will drive to White Center and break up into teams to pray for people. If you are interested, please let Pastor Ryan know today before you leave the church building.

## NEW GRIESHARE SESSION

Grief Share is a safe space for those walking through grief of the loss of a loved one. The next 13- week session begins Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10am. You're welcome to begin at any session as each is "self-contained". You will find help and encouragement whenever you begin. Please contact Barb for more information.

## AWANA VERSE-A-THON RESULTS

**Over \$4,200 was pledged** for this fundraiser held this past Wednesday. The Awana clubbers were super at learning and reciting verses – So proud of them! If you were not asked to pledge, but would like to **help reach the goal of \$5,000 to start new Awana clubs in Chile**, please just mark your donation "Awana Verse-A-Thon". Thanks also for all the listeners who volunteered – We could not have done it without you!

## HANDS ON MINISTRY MEETING

Grace Church is blessed to have several volunteers regularly doing maintenance and projects. Please come and hear Pastor Jerry share his vision and explore ways to expand this ministry on **March 5, 10 minutes after worship in rm 129.**

## FATHER DAUGHTER RETREAT

February 24-26. For Dad's with daughters around the age of 8 to 18 years old (Age range was suggested by the camp - use your discretion). Activities include short sessions with speaker Brett Hollis, swimming, archery, rock climbing, drift trikes, sport courts, mountain bike trails (bring your bikes and helmets), hiking, disc and mini golf. \$100pp if you sign up through Grace Church - Includes all meals. Dad's and daughters, sign up at the Welcome Center and pick up a schedule! \$25 Deposit due today. **Balance due NEXT WEEK No later than Sunday February 19.**

## SOLVING PROBLEMS BIBLICALLY

We have problems. Relationships, marriages, families, health, finances, jobs and an endless list of challenges seem overwhelming. Is there hope? God has solutions. The One who created us knows us best. He knows exactly what we need. God wrote a handbook to guide us through many challenges we face in life. The Bible, God's Word, gives us the wisdom and tools we need to overcome even our most difficult problems. This class is designed to help you understand and apply God's will, as revealed in His Word, to your particular needs in order to become a more fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Wed. in room 129, 6:30pm.

## YOUTH SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE

On Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> we are inviting 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade boys to join us in an all-day snowshoe adventure in Snoqualmie Pass! All that is needed is warm clothes and enough food for the day, the rest is provided. Cost: \$45 (if you want to help a student go, see Pastor Lucas). Leave @ 7am from Grace.