

A PASSION FOR JESUS AND HIS PURPOSES IN THE EARTH

Typically, every new semester begins with a review of our church's vision and values. The fall of 2023 is no different but instead of having a single vision Sunday, we are taking four weeks to look at who we are, what we are called to do, how we practically live day to day, and how we are responding to the Word of the Lord for us this year.

If you have been around Antioch for very long, you know that we are committed to **living on mission**. If you are a *Mission Impossible* fan, don't worry. We will not be riding off of a cliff on a motorcycle, but we do want to look at some scriptures to ground us as we seek to live missionally. Of course, just like the self-destruct recording says in those movies, "should you choose to accept this mission," we also have the choice of how we live. May we choose to live on mission for God's glory and the advancement of His Kingdom.

More details will come in the weeks ahead, but this week we are examining how to build the strong foundation we need if we choose to accept God's missional call.

Icebreaker

It is just so HOT here! If you could spend July and August somewhere besides Texas, where would you go?

Worship

Goodness of God | Bethel Music, Jenn Johnson

Awake, My Soul | Hillsong Worship, Brooke Ligertwood

O Lord, You're Beautiful | Chris Tomlin, Steffany Gretzinger

Read these verses below slowly out loud together and then quietly to yourselves a few more times.

Colossians 3:17 *"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

Ephesians 5:15-16 *"Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."*

John 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."*

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me."*

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Discussion Questions

1. Which of these verses above most helps you to be grounded in Jesus as you seek to live the life He has called you to live? Why?
2. In your own words, what does living missionally mean to you?
3. How can we live on mission for Jesus in our everyday lives?
4. Can all followers of Jesus live missionally or is that life just for a chosen few? Explain your views.
5. Why is it important to build and maintain a strong inner foundation and not just get busy with important Kingdom tasks? What are the pitfalls if we don't? What are the rewards if we do?

Prayer

Break up into small groups and pray for each other, specifically regarding personal, daily encounters with the Trinity.

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In week 2 of our 4-week vision series, we will look at who we are and what we do as Antioch Community Church. From the beginning of our church, the phrase "A passion for Jesus and His purposes on the earth" has been used to describe who we are as a fellowship and as a movement of churches. What we do can be summed up in this phrase — Encounter God, Disciple Others, and Live on Mission (EDM). This week, we want to discuss the biblical underpinning of what we do.

Icebreaker

Name something that may seem trivial or quirky but that you are passionate about. (Ex: a specific coffee, type of running shoes, hobby, etc.)

Worship

God of Miracles | Chris McClarney

King of My Heart | Bethel Music, Steffany Gretzinger

Hymn of Heaven | Phil Wickham

Read & Discuss

1. Philippians 2:4-11 together.
 - a. Share what stands out to you regarding living with Kingdom passion and purpose.
 - b. Is the phrase, "A passion for Jesus and His purposes on the earth" familiar to you? What thoughts and emotions come up in you when you hear it?
2. Read Psalm 27:4, Psalm 63:1-8, and I John 4:16-19.
 - a. When we talk about the value of encountering God, is that a value in your daily life? If so, how do you pursue encounters with God?
 - b. In what ways do you see God pursuing you?
3. Read Matthew 28:19-20.
 - a. Share what you think "discipling others" means.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.
 - a. Is the concept of sharing the gospel as a part of daily life a comfortable one? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you see yourself as an ambassador of Christ with a ministry of reconciliation? What would it look like in your life if you believed this?

Prayer

Break up into small groups and pray for each other to desire encounter with the Trinity, be bold to be a disciple and make disciples and keep yielding to a life of missional living.

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In week 3 of our 4-week vision series, we are going to look at the question, "How do we do church?" At Antioch, we use a model called the 5 Circles of Church. It is our aim to impact and transform personal lives, families, neighborhoods, and every sphere of society in our city, nation and the nations for the glory of God. Does this sound like a lofty goal that will be impossible to achieve? You are so right, if you are thinking that. However, this is the goal of the God of the universe, and He has the power to use His people to transform all of these places, if we yield to Him.

Icebreaker

Many people are headed back to school. What was your favorite grade or your favorite teacher and why?

Worship

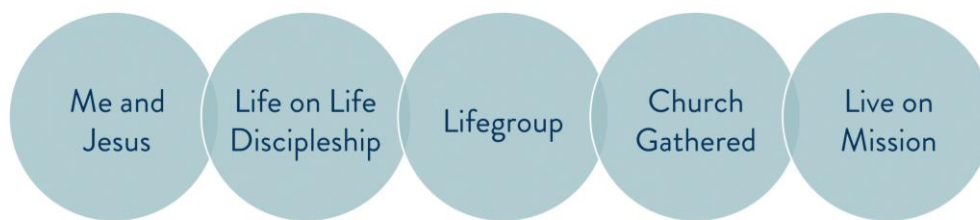
Worthy | Elevation Worship

O Praise the Name | Hillsong

It is Well | Bethel Music, Kristene DiMarco

Read & Discuss

It is one thing to know about the 5 Circles of Church. During Lifegroup night this week, we will consider how we are engaging with those circles individually and as a Lifegroup.



Me and Jesus:

What do the following scriptures communicate about the importance of my personal relationship with Jesus?

1. Psalm 63:1-4
2. John 15:1-5
3. Romans 12:1-2

Self-Reflection – Consider the following questions individually. Share your responses with 1-2 people in your Lifegroup.

1. How am I currently relating to Jesus?
2. What is going well?
3. Are there some ways in which I would like to invest in my relationship with Jesus more intentionally?

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Life on Life Discipleship:

What do the following scriptures communicate about the value of being and making disciples?

1. Proverbs 27:17
2. John 10:27-28

Group Reflection – With those verses in mind, take a few minutes to consider the following questions.

1. Why is it so important to remain connected to other disciples/followers of Jesus?
2. How should we relate to each other as fellow disciples?
3. What does John 10 say about being a follower of Jesus (a disciple)?

Lifegroup:

How do the scriptures below help us understand the value of gathering in small group faith communities?

1. Acts 2:46-47
2. Hebrews 10:24-25

Group Reflection – Discuss the following question as a group.

1. As a Lifegroup, how are we doing living together in Biblical community?

Church Gathered:

Read the following verses and talk about what they tell us about God's perspective of His church.

1. Deuteronomy 31:12-13
2. John 4:21-24
3. Ephesians 5:31-32

Self-Reflection – Consider the following questions individually.

1. How do I respond to the bride of Christ (the church)?
2. Is there any way I need to repent?

As a group, spend some time praying, specifically expressing gratitude for the church.

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Live on Mission:

Read the following passages and talk about what it means to live on mission.

1. Matthew 28:19-20
2. Mark 16:15
3. Acts 1:8

Group Reflection – Consider the following questions as a group.

1. How are we living on mission as a Lifegroup Community?
2. How can we be intentional this semester to live on mission?
3. What is the next step?
4. Who is going to keep us moving forward?

Wrap up this discussion by reading the following verses and reflecting on the questions below.

1 Peter 2:5 *“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:11-12 *“He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”*

1. Do you feel a part of Antioch Community Church? Why or why not?
2. In looking at the 5 circles of church graphic, do you have questions or comments? Which one is easy for you and which one is more challenging for you?
3. As “living stones” of God’s church, we are being built up and we are also building. How does being part of the body of Christ here build you up? Where are you contributing to doing some building?

Prayer

Break up into small groups and pray for each and specifically our role as “living stones” here at Antioch. Pray against feelings of isolation, uselessness, and lack of value, which are not from God.

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For the final week of our values series, we will look at **unity** in the church. Annually, our leaders invite other leaders and prophetic voices within our movement and beyond to wait on the Lord and submit what they sense the Holy Spirit is saying for the upcoming year. The Word of the Lord for 2023 is Unity. This year we have been intentional about pursuing union with God, communion with the saints and partnership together in advancing the Kingdom of God.

Icebreaker

Activity: Have everyone stand up and announce that the goal of this game is to try and sit down at exactly the 60 second mark. Explains that whoever sits down at that exact time wins. Phones, clocks, watches, etc., cannot be used. People can count, pace, tap or whatever helps them. As the moderator, you have permission to talk until everyone is seated to make things more difficult. Often, no one gets it exactly.

Afterwards—ask this icebreaker question: What were the best minutes of your week this week?

Worship

Living Hope | Phil Wickham

A Thousand Hallelujahs | Brooke Ligertwood

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) | Chris Tomlin

Read

Read Acts 2:42-47 together and discuss how this passage displays unity. What specific things did these early believers do that promoted unity?

Read the following passages and continue with the discussion.

Psalm 133:1 *"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"*

Ephesians 4:3-6 *"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith; one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."*

Colossians 3:13-14 *"Bear with one another and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

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Discussion

1. What unifies us as a church? The answer is of course, Jesus, but what specifically about Jesus draws us together as the body of Christ?
2. The definition of unity is wholeness/oneness through the joining of different parts. Why is this so difficult in the church?
3. What are your thoughts on the phrase, "unity is not conformity?"
4. In looking at the verses we read, what is needed to make unity in the church possible?
5. When we walk together in unity, what are we wanting to display to the world? How does the church fall short of that, at times?
6. How does unity in the church draw the lost, the hurting, the needy, and the outcast towards God?

Prayer

Break up into small groups and pray for one another to be instruments of unity in the church, in our families, at work, etc. We all have a role to play in uniting people around the person of Jesus.