

CORE

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

GRACE CHURCH
whoisgrace.com

2022

CORE

THE ESSENTIALS

WEEK 1

Who is the church? | Who is Grace?

Participation in a local church is
God's plan for all Christians.

Big Idea

Sarah Burtt
sarah@whoisgrace.com

Teacher

WHO IS THE CHURCH?

Teaching Video #1

Notes:

God is a relational God

Jesus is our Savior and our Good Shepherd

42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

WHO IS THE CHURCH?

Discussion Questions

In Acts 2:42-47, what are all the activities the church was doing together?

Where have you seen those things happening at Grace or other gatherings? In large groups? In small groups?

What is the encouragement for us in Hebrews 10:24-25? Why do you think we need reminded of this today?

When and where can you model these specific activities? Which Hebrews 10 activity can you engage in this week?

WHO IS GRACE CHURCH?

Teaching Video #2

Notes:

MISSION

Grace Church exists to _____ and to _____ fully devoted followers to Jesus Christ.

VISION

CORE VALUES

Accessible Biblical Truth:

Authentic Relationships:

Spiritual Vitality:

All In:

Outward Focus:

WHO IS GRACE?

Discussion Questions

Why do you think it's important for a church to have a clear mission, vision and values?

Looking at each core value, what does it look like when an individual embodies one of these? What does it look like when individuals come together as the church to embody these?

WHO IS GRACE CHURCH?

Teaching Video #3

Notes:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:9-10

Week 1 Challenge: Choose 1 core value and put it into practice this week

DIG DEEPER

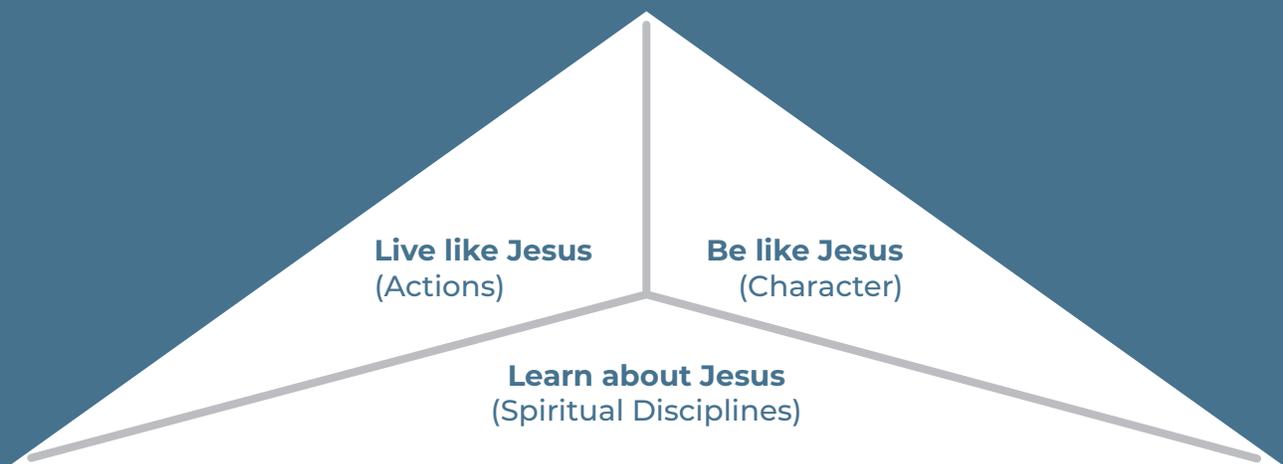
Find more content at www.whoisgrace.com/coreclass.

Have a question? Email us at core@whoisgrace.com.

Don't forget!! If you have not yet taken the **SHAPE** assessment please do that before week 3!

WHAT IS A 'FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER' OF CHRIST?

After we accept God's gift of salvation through Christ, and we've committed our lives to Him, our love for God manifests itself in an ongoing lifestyle in which we continue to learn more about God, we strive to have His character, and we serve Him by the way we live.



Here are some examples (not an exhaustive list):

Learn and Know God More –The personal actions we do to stay close to God.

- Prayer and fasting (Luke 6:12, 1 Cor 14:14-15, James 5:13-16, 1 Thes 5:17, Jude 1:20, Matt 26:41)
- Bible Reading, meditation, memorization (Heb 5:12-14, John 17:17, 1 Thes 2:13, 1 Peter 1:23-25, 1 Peter 2:1-2, 2 Tim 2:15, 2 Peter 1:5)

LIVE the Way Jesus Lived --The actions that show our love and obedience to God.

LIVE IN COMMUNITY

- Share life with other Christians (Acts 2:42; Heb 10:24-25; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10; Titus 2:3)
- Be a positive spiritual influence in your family (Eph 6:1-4; Eph 5:21-33, Col 3:18-21, 1 Peter 3:1-7, Matt 7:9)

INVEST IN OTHERS

- Share your faith (Romans 10:9-10; Eph 6:19-20)
- Serve the poor, widows and orphans (Gal 2:10, James 2:14-26, Luke 18:22, Zec 7:9)

VOLUNTEER MY TIME AND GIFTS

- Exercise spiritual gifts inside and outside the church community (1 Cor 12; Rom 12:6; James 1:22-25)
- Doing constructive, good works daily (Eph 2:8-10)

EQUIP MYSELF

- Engage in life-long learning, and applying Bible teaching to your life (Eph 6:10-18; Jude 1:20, 2 Tim 2:15)

Be Like Jesus—The character traits we want to develop as we imitate Christ

Learn and Know God More –The personal actions we do to stay close to God.

- “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39).
- “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” (Galatians 5:6)
- “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians 5: 22-23)
- “Show justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before your God.” (Zechariah 7:9)

Being a fully devoted follower doesn't mean that we're perfect! But it does mean that we genuinely pursue Christ and His ways as a response to His love for us, and our growing love for Him. If you'd like to learn more, feel free to contact us at core@whoisgrace.com.

CORE

THE ESSENTIALS

WEEK 2

WHAT IS THE MISSION?

Christians are Christ's
ambassadors to the world.

Big Idea

Jalonna Krueger
jalonna@whoisgrace.com

Teacher

WHAT IS THE MISSION

Teaching Video #1

Notes:

MISSION

Grace Church exists to _____ and to _____ fully devoted followers to Jesus Christ.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3) I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:1-3

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 3:16-17

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

WHAT IS THE MISSION?

Discussion Questions

Compare the Grace Church mission statement with the Great Commission in Matthew 28. How well are we aligned with Jesus' mission?

What does a fully devoted follower look like? What do they do?

How did someone or something (an event or sign) tell you about the good news of Jesus.

How have you been able to share Jesus with the people in your life?

What are the practical ways that we can BE devoted followers and MAKE devoted followers?

WHO AND WHERE?

Teaching Video #2

Notes:

Who?

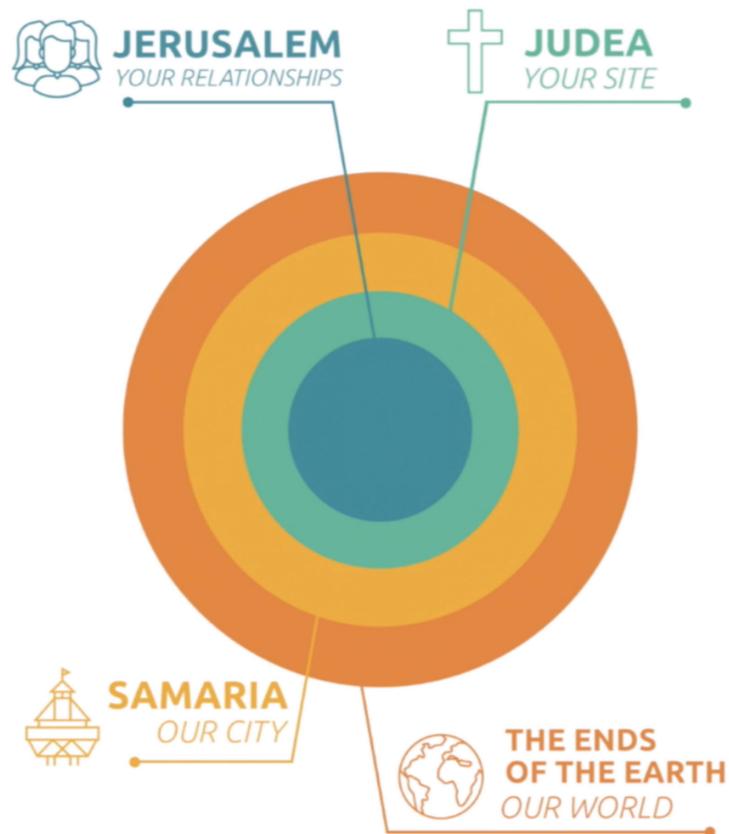
Where?

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

WHO AND WHERE?

Discussion Questions



Take the 3-3-3 Challenge! Write down 3 names and commit to praying for them for 3 minutes at 3pm over the next week. Ask God for opportunities to share Jesus with them!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

HOW?

Teaching Video #3

Notes:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

Outward Focus

Grace Global Missions
www.whoisgrace.com/missions

Local Partners:

- ServErie
www.servErie.com

Week 2 Challenge: Add 3-3-3 to your daily rhythm this week. (For 3 minutes at 3pm pray for 3 people.)

DIG DEEPER

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CORE

THE ESSENTIALS

WEEK 3

WHO AM I?

Each Christian is uniquely gifted
and called to God's Mission

Big Idea

Matt Kent
matt@whoisgrace.com

Teacher

WHO AM I?

Teaching Video #1

Notes:

7 MINISTRY PRINCIPLES

A person's ministry is determined by his or her design

Using your spiritual gifts is fruitful and fulfilling

Everyone has a calling

Personal ministry builds up the local church

The Grace staff members are administrators, while the people of Grace are ministers

"Church" is a team sport

Serving changes you

14) *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

15) *My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

16) *Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

Psalm 139:14-16

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them; if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:3-9

WHO AM I?

Discussion Questions

What is your reaction to the truth that you are a minister, a servant, called to serve God and His church?

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

The Greek word for “workmanship” in Ephesians 2:10 is poemia. The Greeks used it to describe any artistic masterpiece. How is the Church God’s masterpiece? How are you His masterpiece?

How does Ephesians 2:10 encourage you?

Look through those 7 ministry principles again. How have you seen these in action at Grace or other churches?

WHO AM I?

Teaching Video #2

Notes:

S.H.A.P.E.

- **Spiritual Gifts**
- **Heart:** What are you passionate about?
- **Abilities:** Have you ever considered that your abilities and your personality have a spiritual purpose?
- **Personality:** How could you use your abilities, strengths, and personality to serve God and others?
- **Experiences:** In what way has a past experience prepared you to serve others?

Concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed...

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5) There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6) There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7) Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8) To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9) to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10) to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11) All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

WHO AM I?

Discussion Questions

The SHAPE assessment has given you a good idea of what your spiritual gift(s) might be. What are some additional ways you can work to confirm and discover more about your gifts?

Share your top 3 spiritual gifts from your assessment results. Do these seem true for you? What surprises you?

What have you learned about yourself by looking each part of your SHAPE assessment separately and together?

WHO AM I?

Teaching Video #3

Notes:

Heart

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

Abilities

There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:6

Personality

Experiences

Week 3 Challenge: Explore one of the spiritual gifts from your survey. Talk with a trusted friend or dig into the scriptures on the next pages.

DIG DEEPER

Find more content at www.whoisgrace.com/coreclass.

Have a question? Email us at core@whoisgrace.com.

Don't forget!! Take the **Next Steps Survey** that your CORE Host shares with you.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and 27-31, Ephesians 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:8-11. There also are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts that are not included in these four lists.

As you read through the gifts described below, make a check mark by each gift that, upon initial impression, seems to apply to you. Remember you can have many gifts.

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD (to both unbelievers and believers):

PROPHECY ("Preaching") *1 Corinthians 14:3; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 13:2; 2 Peter 1:19-21*

The ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired way that convinces unbeliever and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

EVANGELISM *Acts 8:26-40; Ephesians 4:11; Luke 19:1-10*

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

APOSTLESHIP *Romans 15:20; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12*

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE:

TEACHING *Ephesians 4:12-13; Acts 18:21-24; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29*

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation") *Acts 14:22; Acts 11:22-24; Acts 15:30-32; Romans 12:8*

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on Biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

WISDOM *1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16; James 3:13-18; Jeremiah 9:23-24*

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

DISCERNMENT *1 John 4:1-6; Acts 5:1-4; Matthew 16:21-23*

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

KNOWLEDGE *Daniel 1:17; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 2:6-8; John 1:45-50*

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

SERVICE/ HELPS *Acts 6:1-7; Romans 16:1-2; Romans 12:7*

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition

MERCY *Luke 10:30-37; Mark 10:46-52; Romans 12:8*

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

HOSPITALITY *1 Peter 4:9-10; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1-2*

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship

SHEPHERDING ("Pastoring") *1 Peter 5:2-4; John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-12*

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

GIVING *2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 2 Corinthians 6:8; Luke 21:1-4*

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts):

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION *Psalms 150:3-5; 2 Samuel 6:14-15; Mark 4:2, 33*

The ability to celebrate God's presence by using the arts (writing, art, drama, music) to communicate God's truth. The ability to use variety and to captivate people and cause them to consider God's message.

CRAFTSMANSHIP *Exodus 31:3-11; 35:31-35; 2 Kings 22:5-6; Acts 9:36-39*

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts):

INTERCESSION *Colossians 1:9-12; Romans 8:26-27; John 17:9-26*

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

****HEALING** *James 5:14-16; Mark 2:1-12; Acts 3:1-16*

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

****MIRACLES** *Mark 11:23-24; Luke 5:1-11; John 2:1-11*

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

****TONGUES/INTERPRETATION** *1 Corinthians 14:13-15; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30; 1 Corinthians 14:1-33; Acts 2:1-11*

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts):

LEADERSHIP *Romans 12:8; Hebrews 13:17; Luke 22:25-26*

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction, the vision, of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

ADMINISTRATION *1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:13-26*

Also called the gift of organization. That is the ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

FAITH *1 Corinthians 12:9, 13; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:18-21*

The gift of faith is the ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

****Not in the spiritual gift assessment because those who have these gifts do not need an assessment tool to discover it.**

CORE

THE ESSENTIALS

WEEK 4

WHAT'S NEXT?

God is calling you to take
the next right step

Big Idea

Pastor Scott Michel
scott@whoisgrace.com

Teacher

WHAT'S NEXT?

Teaching Video #1

Notes:

“We believe that being a fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ is more than a one-time decision. It’s a lifelong process.”

WHAT'S NEXT?

Discussion Questions

Who models for you being a fully devoted follower of Christ? What do you see them doing and saying?

What does it mean to you that becoming a fully devoted follower is more like a crock pot than a microwave?

What are some of the spiritual practices and Next Steps that have helped you in your spiritual growth?

WHAT'S NEXT?

Teaching Video #2

Notes:

NEXT STEPS AT GRACE CHURCH

BAPTISM

LIFEGROUPS

CHALLENGE GROUPS

WHAT'S NEXT?

Discussion Questions

Pastor Derek has said “Focus on Next Steps not perfection.” How does that encourage you?

Would someone share with the group about their baptism experience? What were your emotions beforehand? What did you experience after you were baptized?

What do you think your next step might be? [Life Group? A Challenge Group? Baptism?]

If you have taken one of these steps, share why you decided to take that step and how it has impacted you.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Teaching Video #3

Notes:

MORE NEXT STEPS AT GRACE CHURCH

SERVE

GENEROSITY/GIVING

CARE & SUPPORT
gethelp@whoisgrace.com

Week 4 Challenge: Spend time praying about your next step and then tell someone what God is doing in your life!

DIG DEEPER

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Have a question? Email us at core@whoisgrace.com.

Thank you for being part of CORE! Please take the **Participant Survey** that your host will share with you.

The church is intended to be a loving community in which people experience grace, acceptance, encouragement, accountability, and correction. The body of believers at Grace Church values authentic relationships in which people can be honest about who they really are and what they are going through. We strive to accept one another as we are, while simultaneously challenging each other to grow in our obedience to God and His Word. This combination of encouragement and accountability is essential to our growth as followers of Jesus.

Accountability means accepting support from others who can help us become the person Jesus wants us to be. It works best, and most effectively, when mutual purpose, openness, trust, and love flourish. This is why Life Groups are so vital at Grace Church. They allow us to experience accountability in the context of authentic, caring relationships. Life Groups are most effective when people talk openly about the specific ways God is growing their faith and when they invite their group to support what God is doing in their lives.

Read the following passage written by the apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus:

*Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. **Ephesians 4:15-16***

Jesus talks about Christian accountability in the following passage:

*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16) But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17) If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **Matthew 18:15-17***

Most accountability comes in the form of friends challenging each other to set sin aside in order to become all that Christ asks us to be. Only when this one-to-one process breaks down does the Grace Church staff or elders get involved. On very rare occasions, when the sin is serious and the sinning person refuses to part from it, the matter comes before the members of Grace Church.

No matter what form of accountability someone receives, it should always be based on God's Word, motivated by love – for the good of the person receiving it -- and aimed at restoration in their relationship to God and others.

ACCOUNTABILITY: REFLECT

- Think about a time when a friend or spouse told you a hard truth about yourself. How did you feel at that moment? How did you think about that conversation a week later?
- When someone sins, who does Jesus say needs to be involved in the correcting process?
- Why do you think Jesus described a process with "steps?"
- What is the most important characteristic of accountability?

If any of you have been at a Grace Church service when someone was baptized, then you have witnessed the joy that comes with baptism. There is an obvious joy on the part of the person being baptized, and there also is visible joy in the entire congregation. As a part of the body of Christ at Grace Church, we rejoice when another part of the body takes this step of obedience.

Many people come to Grace Church having been baptized as infants. They wonder then why one of the membership requirements at Grace Church is baptism as a believer. We definitely do not want to devalue someone's baptism as an infant. At the same time, we hold to believer's baptism as included by Jesus in the Great Commission:

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 28:19***

In the New Testament, all of the people recorded as having been baptized were people who had made a conscious decision to follow Christ. Baptism does not save you. But Jesus commanded believer's baptism, making it an act of obedience and a powerful picture of how our lives are connected to Jesus.

Read the following passage written by the apostle Paul to the Christians at Rome.

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2) By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:1-4***

Being physically baptized in water as a believer is an action that reminds you and every person who is there that a spiritual reality has already occurred in you. Through the cross of Jesus, your life has been forever connected to the life of Jesus. That, of course, changes everything.

BAPTISM: REFLECT

- What similarities does the apostle Paul see between Jesus' death and resurrection and baptism?
- What does Paul mean when he writes that we (believers) participate in Jesus' death and resurrection?
- How does being connected to Jesus affect how we relate to sin?
- If you have not taken this next step of faith, are you ready?

For more information about Baptism check out [whoisgrace.com/salvation-and-baptism](https://www.whoisgrace.com/salvation-and-baptism) and [whoisgrace.com/blog/3-reasons-you-should-be-baptized](https://www.whoisgrace.com/blog/3-reasons-you-should-be-baptized).

Every corporate worship experience at Grace Church includes a time for people to give their tithes and offerings back to the Lord. Scripture teaches that Jesus' followers are generous people who invest in the kingdom of God on earth. The tithe -- giving 10% of one's income to the local church -- is a baseline for generous giving that has biblical support. (Genesis 28:20-22, Luke 11:42)

Throughout Scripture tithing is always shown as a means for those who follow God to worship Him and remember that all we have comes from Him and belongs to Him. The tithe is a way of contributing to the work of God on earth through the local church. A tithe multiplies opportunities for kids, youth and people of all ages all over our region to experience Jesus. A tithe to God through Grace Church helps with the care of widows, single moms, missionaries, and pastors. A tithe helps Grace Church invest in blighted neighborhoods and share the gospel with those who do not yet know Jesus.

Tithing 10% of one's gross income is not a requirement at the time of membership. However, in accepting membership at Grace Church, you are agreeing to work toward that goal as part of your overall generous giving.

Read the following passage written by the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth:

6) The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7) Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9) As it is written,

*"He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."*

10) He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11) You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

GENEROSITY & TITHING: REFLECT

- Why is generosity and tithing pleasing to God?
- Who is impacted when we are generous toward God? In what ways?
- How does seeing yourself as a steward of God's money change your perspective?
- How does generous giving change how God is viewed?

At Grace, we consider membership to be an important step in the journey of becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12, "For the body does not consist of one member but of many." Membership reflects what the church is, one body with many members.

By becoming a member of Grace, you are drawing a line in the sand, making a commitment to be part of a Christian community. This is not just for Grace's benefit, but more importantly, for yours as well. You are agreeing to live by a set of Christian values and to be accountable to grow spiritually, as you pursue being fully devoted to Christ.

In addition, by making this commitment, you are opening the door to help others in their journey. As a member, you are setting an example by living out what the Bible teaches about covenant community. Also, membership allows you to serve in key positions within the church.

We hope that you sense God's calling to membership in the local church and that Grace can be that church.

Membership Requirements:

- Participation in the CORE class
- Completion of the membership application
- Membership Interview with two members of staff and/or elders