



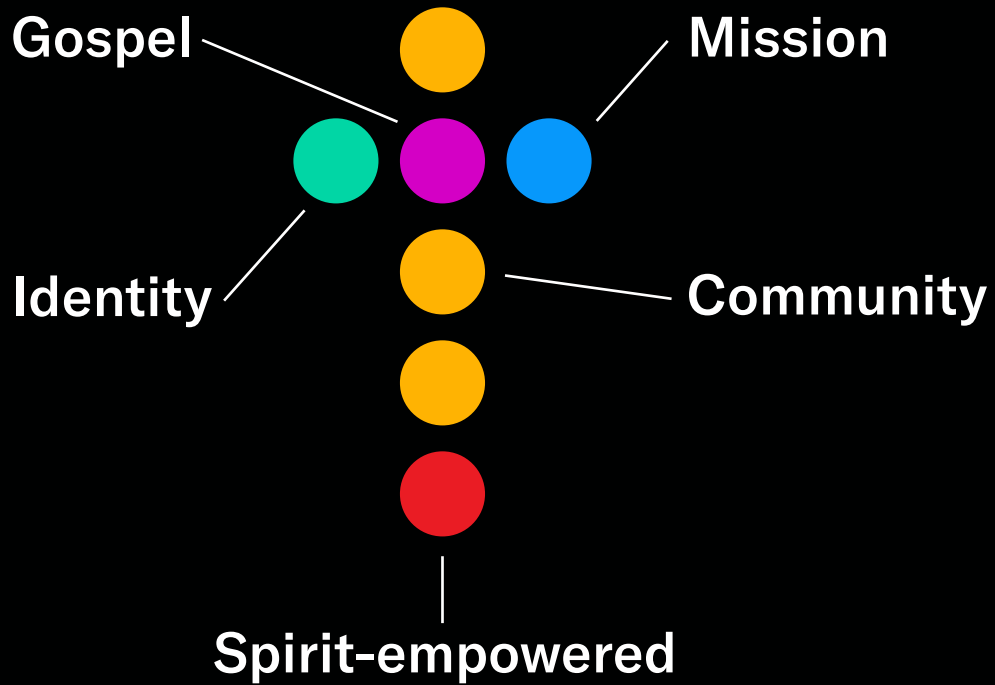
Microchurch

a community of people committed
to living the ways of Jesus

**City
Church**

THE FIVE ESSENTIAL TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Our Kingdom Foundations



Why do we choose Gospel centered community?

Five commitments of community:

1. In a time of ***isolation***,
we choose to be fully known by others.
2. In a time of ***deception***,
we need the accountability that comes with
community.
3. In a time of ***division***,
we declare our unity around the Gospel
of Jesus Christ.
4. In a time of ***self-centeredness***,
we choose the sacrificial path of missional living.
5. In a time of ***shallow commitment***,
we give ourselves to covenant community.

The Framework

This microchurch is not formed around shared interests, geographical location, stage of life, people you naturally like, or any other common/cultural markers of community.

This microchurch is formed around the gospel of Jesus Christ and a desire to live like Jesus. This means we gladly embrace the diversity of our microchurch (politically, socio-economically, geographically, demographically, etc.) and understand it is the power of the gospel that unites us together.

Microchurch

Rhythm & Roles

Brief check-in:

- What are you celebrating/thankful for?
- What is causing anxiety/worry?
- How can we pray for each other?

Discovery Bible Study:

- What does this story tell us about God and about us?
- What does this story mean to you?
- What is God asking you to do or change as a result of this story? What does obedience to this passage look like?

People living on mission together:

- How are we making disciples? Who are we investing in, serving, praying for, or inviting?
- Is there an opportunity for our microchurch to serve/love someone?
- Are there missional causes within our microchurch? How can we support one another?

Other Factors

- If there are kids in the microchurch, what are the ways we can incorporate them into spiritual formation/growth? What is the best way to organize childcare for the group?
- If a group is growing beyond its capacity or has potential for multiplication, the microchurch leader should lead the microchurch into a time of prayer and discernment on how to multiply and who God may be calling to lead

Potential Roles in a Microchurch:

- Microchurch leader
- Communications
- Facilitates discussion
- Food (if necessary)
- Childcare (if necessary)
- Hosting
- Missional leader

Agenda for First & Second Meetings:

1. Get to know each other or check-in if there is a previous relationship
2. Delegate responsibilities and address any details (how often you meet, childcare, etc.)

Rules for discussion:

- We want everyone to share - please don't dominate the discussion.
- We don't have to agree on everything but we will love, honor, and respect each other.

Questions we ask every time we open scripture:

- What does this story tell us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story mean to you?
- What is God asking you to do or change as a result of this story?
- What does obedience to this passage look like?

Discovery Bible Study: Acts 2:42-47

Over the next several microchurch meetings discuss the implications of the five commitments of community (page 3).

With that context, ask these larger questions:

1. Why do we choose gospel-centered community?
2. Why do we choose to push against these cultural norms that destroy community?

What is a Discovery Bible study?

When we open scripture within the context of community and allow the text to shape our lives and understanding, we believe the Holy Spirit leads us into truth, freedom, and a life that reflects Jesus.



Microchurch Curriculum

Microchurch Curriculum

Contents

- PART 1** **GOSPEL**
- Genesis 1:1-2:3
 - John 3:1-21
 - Philippians 2:5-11
- PART 2** **IDENTITY**
- Luke 10:38-42
 - John 15:1-17
 - Colossians 3:1-17
- PART 3** **COMMUNITY**
- Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35
 - Romans 12:3-21
 - Ephesians 4:11-16
- PART 4** **MISSION**
- Matthew 28:16-20
 - Mark 1:16-20
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- PART 5** **SPIRIT-EMPOWERED**
- Acts 1:1-9, 2:1-13
 - John 14:15-27
 - Acts 13:1-12

Gospel

The gospel is the good news of the kingdom of God coming to reign with us through the work of Jesus Christ. It is the announcement of the good news of God's victory over sin, Satan, death, and hell, and the declaration that God is renewing all things in and through the work of Jesus Christ. This gospel is substitutionary (Jesus taking our place), it is holistic (redeeming all of creation), and it moves through God's people as the Holy Spirit works in us.

This gospel is not something we deserve, earn, or produce. It is good news because we were lost, completely incapable of being rescued in our own efforts, and God, who is rich in mercy, rescued us from sin and death. As the gospel is continually revealed to our hearts through the work of the Spirit, it begins to overflow in our lives through gratitude and a life devoted to the King and kingdom living.

The gospel is also the pinnacle of God's plan for redemption. It is first and foremost about the heart of God, a God who desires to experience a renewed relationship with His creation. God created us for intimate fellowship with Him (Genesis 1), and our rebellion and sin fractured the intimacy we were designed to experience with Him (Genesis 3). In God's desire to redeem us (His creation), He established a covenant with Abraham, a people in Israel, and a law through Moses in order to dwell among us. But the law was temporary, unable to truly transform the hearts of people and deal with the effects of sin and death. As a result, God sent His Son to earth (the incarnation) to become the ultimate sacrifice for mankind and to reverse the curse of sin and death placed upon us by our rebellion against Him.

The Holy Spirit is now poured out on His people as we seek to reestablish God's kingdom on earth wherever we are present. God is renewing all things through the work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit: renewing individual lives, creating a new redeemed people, and establishing His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. As we join God in His kingdom redemption, we eagerly await the re-creation and restoration of all things in the second coming of Christ (new heavens and new earth).

GOSPEL: Discovery Studies

Genesis 1:1-2:3 | John 3:1-21 | Philippians 2:5-11

Identity

It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that reveals to us our true identity as sons and daughters of God as we move into an intimate, abiding relationship with our heavenly Father. It is the gospel, not our culture, our personal desires, or other people, that gives us our identity and purpose. As a new creation in Christ, we take off every false identity based on our race, gender, sexuality, interests, desires, accomplishments, connections, friends, families, social-economic status, or past failures. We understand our primary and foundational identity is a part of a larger framework created by God. Elevating any identity above our identity in Christ is idolatry and will produce insecurity and shame. As a result, we daily take off our old selves and our culturally shaped identities and we put on our new selves, continually being renewed into the image of Christ.

As the gospel is revealed to us through the work of the Spirit and we develop daily spiritual rhythms of renewal and transformation, we begin to grow into our God-given identity in Christ. We understand that we are justified or made righteous through Christ alone. Justification, the process by which God makes us right in His sight, is where God forgives our sins and declares us free from guilt, shame, and condemnation. We then experience sanctification, where the Holy Spirit washes us from our sins and gives us a new spirit, a new heart that is alive to God and desires to obey Him.

IDENTITY: Discovery Studies

Luke 10:38-42 | John 15:1-17 | Colossians 3:1-17

Community

Through the work of the gospel, our identity in Christ, and our commitment to living out the mission of God, we create a foundation for community and mutual commitment to each other as the people of God. Our commitment to Christ is not just a personal decision but a communal commitment to one another as the body of Christ.

In a consumer-driven, convenience-based society, we have a tendency to pursue community based upon our needs, preferences, and desires. As a result, we often fail to experience longevity in our relationships and, therefore, the freedom and beauty that comes from trust, intimacy, forgiveness, and growth over time.

The foundation for this new community is a commitment to the gospel and a willingness to love, serve, and sacrifice our selfish desires for the good of the whole and each other. It is only through this selfless and sacrificial approach, having been empowered by the Holy Spirit, that we become kingdom people who can point the world to life as God intended it.

Although imperfect, the church should be a model of restored community that is diverse yet united in the gospel and our foundational identity in Christ. We make this commitment to each other not based on our preferences or cultural compatibility (shared interest, education, social status, stage of life, etc.) but upon our mutual need for the gospel. Communion (the Eucharist, the table) becomes a gathering point of diverse people who display their communal commitment to one another through the body and blood of Christ.

We become the people of God through the work of the gospel and our shared purpose to bring the kingdom of God to every corner of the world through missional living. It is the Spirit of God at work in us and in the collective community that leads us to unity and oneness.

As we pursue community, we recognize the difficulties and disillusionment we will face along the way, and we ask the Spirit to help us recognize our own need for a Savior and to see others as Christ sees them. In community, we commit ourselves to missional living and building the kingdom of God, to living in proximity with each other, and to the shared practices that grow us into Christ and maturity.

COMMUNITY: Discovery Studies

Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35 | Romans 12:3-21 | Ephesians 4:11-16

Mission

As people who have been transformed by the gospel and find our primary identity in Christ, we now join God in His kingdom mission to redeem all of creation. Missional living begins in the heart of God. It is fueled by a love for all of creation and a desire to restore what has been broken by sin. God sends His kingdom people into the world to bring the reality of God's rule and reign wherever it is not present. Therefore, as image-bearers of God, we bring His kingdom—love, peace, justice, mercy, goodness, and compassion—to each and every place we go.

It is God's desire that all would hear the good news of His kingdom (evangelism) and experience new birth through the renewing work of the Holy Spirit (salvation). Through the work of the Spirit, we are taught to wholeheartedly follow and obey Jesus (sanctification) and go into all the world making disciples, proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom (missional living). As the sent people of God, we rely on the Spirit living within us to empower us to live on mission. We go into every corner of the world to declare the kingdom of God, make disciples, baptize people, and teach them to walk in obedience to Christ.

As a result of this missional mandate, we believe that every believer is a missionary: called by God to bring the gospel to each and every place we go. As we imitate the life of Jesus and proclaim the good news of the gospel, we push back the darkness and bring in the light of God's kingdom to every corner of our world, city, community, workplace, and neighborhood. As the people of God live out this missional mandate to go and make disciples, God brings His kingdom to earth through His people, the church.

MISSION: Discovery Studies

Matthew 28:16-20 | Mark 1:16-20 | 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Spirit-Empowered

The transforming power of the gospel and our commitment to living out the mission of God in community becomes possible through the Spirit of God at work in us. It is the Holy Spirit living and dwelling in us that is the promise of our future inheritance and our salvation. God dwelling in us now is a sign that one day we will forever live in the presence of God.

At Pentecost, the Spirit was given to all believers to empower every man, woman, and child for a supernatural life and ministry in God's kingdom. The Christian life is not designed to be sustained through willpower, personal drive, an experience, or disciplines but by the love of Jesus that comes through intimate union with the Holy Spirit in us. The life and power of Christ and His resurrection are now made accessible to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

As the Spirit of God moves in the life of a believer and the gathered people of God, we see certain manifestations of the Spirit: spiritual gifts, healings, bold proclamations of the gospel, radical generosity, etc. The Spirit of God in the life of a believer and in the larger church community takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary—it turns the normal into the supernatural. We believe the Holy Spirit is always at work all around us and will often move in unexpected, uncontrollable ways that are beyond our human prediction or understanding. So we learn to wait upon the Spirit's movement, seek to be filled with the Spirit, and move where the Spirit of God is moving.

In order to live a Spirit-empowered life we seek to establish daily rhythms, habits, disciplines, and encounters where the Spirit renews our hearts and minds and empowers us to live out the Christian faith. We admit our inability to make disciples, share our faith, care for the sick and needy, and bring the kingdom of God in our own power; we must rely upon the Spirit to speak to us and empower our kingdom life.

SPIRIT-EMPOWERED: Discovery Studies

Acts 1:1-9, 2:1-13 | John 14:15-27 | Acts 13:1-12

