

Welcome!

- ✓ ***Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.***
- ✓ ***Say hello to someone you don't know.***
- ✓ ***We'll gather at 10:20am.***

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Isaiah 26:3-4

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

GOOD NEWS

101

*“In a world of bad news,
everyone needs Good News.”*

Overview

1. Why are we here? (Purpose / Vision)
2. What are we all about? (Mission)
3. What do we believe? (Beliefs)
4. What do we do? (Behaviors)
5. What is the Good News? (Motivation)

Vision & Mission

Vision – to experience and express LOVE from God to others

Mission – to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.

Verse

Verse – *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
– Galatians 5:6b

Expressing Love to Others

What are the 1 or 2 biggest, most difficult, painful trials or sufferings that you've experienced in life?

2 Corinthians 12:10

“For Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” - 2 Corinthians 12:10

Unity... “that the world will believe.”

- Non-essentials
- Essentials

*“In the essentials, unity. In non-essentials,
liberty. In all things, charity.”*

- Rupertus Meldenius

Non-essentials (10)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Scripture (nature) | 6. Spiritual Gifts |
| 2. Sin Nature | 7. Stewardship |
| 3. Sovereignty | 8. Superiority |
| 4. Salvation | 9. Style of Worship |
| 5. Sacraments | 10. Second Coming |

Essentials

1. Scripture (authority)
2. Trinity (deity of Jesus)
3. Salvation (faith in Christ alone)

Quotes

“You don’t have to give up your intellect to trust the Bible. You have to give up your pride.” - R.C. Sproul

“If you’re following Jesus, but you don’t believe what Jesus said, then you’re not following Jesus.” - Steve Brown

The Story

1. Creation – God made it all.
2. Fall – We lost it all.
3. Redemption – Jesus did it all.
4. Salvation – We get it all.
5. Sanctification – God will grow us all.
6. Glorification – God will restore it all.

Sanctification

“God turning our ‘should do’s’ into ‘want to’s’ and our ‘want to’s’ into ‘do’s,’ and wherever we do and don’t do is completely covered by Christ’s done.”

Glorification

*“The corpse that is planted is no beauty, but when it’s raised, it’s glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. **The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural** – same seed, same body but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality!”*

- 1 Corinthians 15:42–44 (MSG)

GNC Beliefs

1. I'm really broken and I need help.

Broken

I'm really broken and I need help.

The Bible teaches that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) such that, in our natural condition, we are without hope and under the curse and judgment of sin (John 8:24), which is condemnation of death (Romans 5:12) and separation from God (Isaiah 59:2).

Starting Point

Our starting point is sinful separation from God.
We are undeserving of anything good from God.
The only thing we deserve from God is justice,
which is condemnation for sin against a holy God.

Evil = Godlessness

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.” - Isaiah 5:20-21

“When Blood Cries Out”

by Jeremiah Knight

This past week, I watched the video of Iryna Zarutskya's brutal murder on the train in Charlotte and also the assassination of Charlie Kirk. My stomach turned, my heart sank, but my soul burned with a single truth: this is man. This is us. This is what it looks like when the mask of culture, civility, and polished appearances is ripped off and the raw heart of fallen humanity is laid bare.

I do not know what verdict the worldly court will hand down on the ones who did this. Perhaps life in prison. Perhaps a death sentence. Perhaps some twisted loophole will even let them walk free. But I know this: there is another court that no man escapes. The righteous Judge is Jesus Christ, and His sentence cannot be delayed, bribed, or overturned. He will repay every man according to his deeds (Romans 2:6).

The blood spilled in those crimes is not silent. Just like Abel's blood, it cries out from the ground (Genesis 4:10). It screams for justice. It demands wrath. And it will have its answer from the throne of God.

But here is the uncomfortable truth that we do not get to stand at a safe distance, shaking our heads at the monster who did this. The same poison that ran through his veins runs through ours. Christ said that hatred is murder in seed form (Matthew 5:21–22). Do you feel the weight of that? The evil behind the knife

that stabbed Irenya and the bullet fired at Charlie lives in my heart—and in yours. It shows itself in anger, pride, lust, selfishness, greed. We wear suits, hold jobs, build reputations, and call ourselves civilized, but strip away the restraints of law and fear of shame, and the depravity of man comes clawing to the surface. Those videos are not an exception to humanity but a mirror of it.

And let us stop lying to ourselves: there are no innocent people. We are not born neutral. We are

born guilty. The Bible does not flatter us. It declares that we are “*children of wrath*” (Ephesians 2:3), rebels at war with our Maker (Romans 5:10), dead in sin and incapable of pleasing God (Romans 8:7–8). You may not have held the knife or fired the bullet, but you have hated, lied, lusted, and envied and before a holy God, that is enough to damn you.

The world wants to put a murderer in a cage and convince itself that justice is served, while the rest of us are fine. But the cross tears that illusion apart. On

the Day of Judgment, there will be no comparison games, no weighing of good deeds against bad. There will only be guilty sinners standing before a holy God, and the only question that matters is this: when your sin is dragged into the light, what will cover you?

And here is where the scandal of grace breaks in. Abel's blood cried out for vengeance. Christ's blood cries out for mercy (Hebrews 12:24). The Judge Himself stepped down from the bench, bore the wrath, and died in the place of guilty men. The very One who will judge us is the only One who can save us.

But do not mistake this for sentimentality. If you reject Christ, His blood will not cover you but it will testify against you. And if you remain outside of Him, you stand in the same category as the murderer you despise. Their crimes were caught on camera. Yours may only be caught in thought, in word, in secret deeds. But God does not grade on curves. Sin is sin, and wrath is wrath.

I do not know what sentence the earthly judge will pronounce on the murderers of Iryna and Charlie. But I know what the righteous Judge will do. The blood cries

out. Civilization is only a mask stretched thin over corruption. And the Day is coming when the mask will be ripped off forever and justice is coming for us all.

And on that Day, there will be no excuses left. No appeals. No jury to sway. Only the voice of the Judge who sees every thought, every secret, every hidden sin. Those outside of Christ will not stand tall with explanations on their lips. They will beg the mountains to fall on them, the rocks to cover them, to hide them *“from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb”* (Revelation 6:16).

This is not a warning for “others.” This is for me.
This is for you. The same nature that produced those murderers lives in us, and apart from Christ, we share the same fate. The only difference between the guilty condemned and the guilty forgiven is the blood of Jesus. Abel’s blood cries out for vengeance. Christ’s blood cries out for mercy. Which one will speak for you on that Day?

He, who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Blessing

2 Thessalonians 3:16

*Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.*