

20

Us

IGNITING A PASSION
TO FOLLOW JESUS

WEEK 1

PRE-EMINENCE OF JESUS

While many things vie for priority in life, we are committed to centering our lives on Jesus— our Savior, our Lord, and the Way to the Father. He is our example and enabler, our High Priest, and the One who is worthy of our worship and total allegiance. The main thing is to keep the Main One (Jesus) the main thing.

AUTHORITY OF THE WORD

The Bible is the foundation of who we are, what we believe, and everything we do. We are committed to preaching, teaching, counseling, sharing, and living by the sufficiency of the whole counsel of God because it contains everything we need for life and godliness. Real life change is found in the Spirit-empowered Word, not our ideas, thoughts, or opinions. God's Word is written in ink while our plans and theologies are in pencil.

REDEMPTIVE COMMUNITY

We are broken people loved by the Father, redeemed by Jesus, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We strive to minister God's love by repairing the brokenness and bringing those who are lost to sin into restoration by the power of the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus. Our focus is Jesus; our authority is the Word; our dependence is prayer; and our aim is Christ-likeness as we live together as the community of God's redeemed.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to have the *Pre-eminence of Jesus* as our first Core Value? (What does “pre-eminence” mean?)
2. If we did not believe in the *Authority of the Word*, where would we turn for truth? What is the difference between believing that the Bible is the Word of God and believing that the Bible contains the Word of God?
3. How is the gospel explained in the first two sentences of the section *Redemptive Community*? Why is this important for cultivating *Redemptive Community*?
4. One theologian said, “A prayerless Christian is a contradiction in terms.” Under *Redemptive Community* it says, “Our dependence is prayer...” What will your dependence on God through prayer look like in 2020?

BIBLICAL UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Within the framework of sound doctrine, we value an atmosphere of theological freedom with humility and a non-divisive spirit. We want to reflect the unified beauty of Father, Son, and Spirit, participating in the building of the multi-faceted kingdom of our triune God. In our theological systems, our ministry forms, and our personal relationships we are committed to biblical unity in diversity.

EXTRAVAGANT GRACE

We desire to be a community of believers who treat others with the same extravagant grace that God has lavished upon us. We yearn to demonstrate this grace through our church culture and our lives in a way that is a transparent, real, and helpful. We are blessed to be a blessing to each other, the city of Indianapolis, and the world.

THE CALL TO GO!

All of us are called to be Spirit-empowered catalysts for life change in our areas of personal influence. We approach ministry with a passionate resolve to equip the saints to engage our culture, addressing the most pressing problems, and reaching the neediest people in our city and the world. While the body of Christ is made up of a variety of gifts, the calling is the same: GO!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some doctrinal areas where there might be disagreement within College Park? Within the categories of “essentials, convictions, and preferences,” which categories have room for disagreement and which category does not? Give some examples of each.
2. Look at Ephesians 4:3. How are you “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”?
3. Who are some people you have a hard time showing grace to? Think about how unworthy you were of God’s grace before he gave it to you. Pray and ask the Spirit to help you display the same kind of grace to others that you were shown by God.
4. Where are your “areas of personal influence”? Have you been seeking to engage people in your areas with the gospel? How can you improve at being a better gospel-promoter in your “areas of personal influence”?