

**CORE Seminar:
Membership Matters**

Session 2: Part 1

Worship: How FBC Gives God Glory & Discipleship: How FBC Grows in Community

Welcome

[Slide 1: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS]

Welcome back to Membership Matters! Thankful for all of you and your interest in what God is doing here at First Baptist!

Last week, we had a handout for you.

- **We also have a guide for you today**
- If you did not get one, please raise your hand and we'll get one to you.

Today, is officially Session 2 for all of you, and in this session we are going to look at:

- **Part 1: Spiritual INFLOW**
 - What it means to worship God - how we worship and glorify God together;
 - And, our discipleship - how we grow in community with one another.
- **Part 2: Spiritual OUTFLOW** – the actionable part of membership.
 - How FBC Portland is equipped to serve – specifically how God has equipped each of us with a spiritual gift to serve.
 - And, how First Baptist engages the world – outside the 37148 – in mission.

Any questions?

Introduction

[Slide2: Martyn Lloyd Jones Quote]

We must re-grasp the idea of church membership / as being the membership of the body of Christ / and as the biggest honour which can come man's way in this world

~ Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Per Lloyd-Jones Quote:

- ***“RE-GRASP THE IDEA of it being an honour” – What we did last week***

- **“As being the Membership of the Body of Christ”** – We’ll discuss tonight and what that means.
- **“And as the biggest honour...”** – really that is what flows from regeneration: worship, community, service & mission – *which will carry the remainder of our time.*

[Slide 3: Members of Body of Christ]

“AS Being the Membership of the Body of Christ”

QUESTION: How do we become MEMBERS of the Body of Christ?

- **What is Martyn Lloyd-Jones speaking of here?**

Well, he’s talking about salvation | regeneration.

- How **“regeneration”** applies to our membership in the body of Christ.

[Slide 4: Regeneration]

“Regeneration” defined:

- Regeneration is the sovereign work of God – through the Holy Spirit who grants spiritual **life** to each Christian, raising them from the dead so that they are now able to repent and trust in Christ as a new creation.¹ [Ezekiel 36:22-32; Ezekiel 36:27; John 3:1-5; Acts 16:14; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Ephesians 2:1-5, Philippians 1:29; James 1:8; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 5:1]

This is salvation... and those who have been saved/ who are regenerate should constitute what the local church is made up of...

[Slide 5: for His glory]

When **God calls** the local church together... when He gathers us together as His people, then He does this for His regenerate people to Worship Him for His **glory**.

- [Acts 2:42-47; Revelation 4 & 5: our worship should be Cross centered - *Worship by the redeemed, to the Redeemer about the Redemption*; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 – Paul bringing order to an unorganized church; 1 Timothy 2]

What is Worship?

¹ Matthew Barrett, *Regeneration*, The Gospel Coalition, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/regeneration/>.

Carl “Chip” Stam passed away about 13 years ago. He was the professor of church music and worship at **Southern Seminary**, the founding director of **Southern's Institute for Christian Worship**. Chip defined worship as this:

*Responding to **God** and honoring **God** by giving Him the glory of **God** through Christ – receiving **all** of our attention.*

David Peterson, in his book *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*, defined worship as:

*An engagement with **God** on the terms that **He** proposes and in a way that **He** alone makes possible.*

[Slide 6: Worshipping God]

Basically, worshipping God is an act made possible only by God. We are engaging with God as His regenerate creation [on his terms] by giving glory to Him, honoring Him and focusing all of our attention toward Him.

[Slide 7: how FBC gathers]

How First Baptist Gathers to Worship God

[Slide 8: 10 core principles]

[GUIDE]

When we gather to worship, FBC Portland desires to adhere to ten [10] core principles of worship. **These are located in your guide** and serve as a great reminder of **Who** called us to repentance **AND Who** gathers us together for the purpose of worship– and of course this is God.

- Takes a ton of pressure off when we remember that God is the focus...

[Slide 9: focus of worship of God = Scripture]

To make sure that God remains the focus – your elders have determined to utilize Scripture through every part of our time of worship:

- **Read the Bible** [1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 4:15-16]
 - Call to Worship
- **Preach the Bible** [Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:13]
 - Expository Preaching
- **Pray the Bible** [Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 6:12]
 - Throughout the Service
- **Sing the Bible** [The Psalms; Ephesians 5:19]

- To deepen our relationship with God
- **And, See the Bible:** Meaning Scripture being “seen” through **giving** [Mark 12:41-44] & **ordinances** of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism by Immersion. [Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11]

[Slide 10: EXPOSITORY PREACHING]

Preaching

[Slide 11: EXPOSITORY PREACHING #2]

You’ll notice that our sermons are typically expositional—which means that Pastor Jacob **takes** a passage of Scripture [*Book of Acts for example*], and **expounds/ explains** on that passage of Scripture. He then **organizes** it around a central theme and main divisions which are taken from the text itself, and then he **applies** it to our lives.

Why is it important?

Expositional preaching is important because God’s Word is what convicts, converts, builds up, and sanctifies God’s people [Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 17:17].

- Forces Pastor Jacob [or any of the elders] to preach all of Scripture – the difficult and the “easy.”

The goal is not just to impart information but to transform lives through the power of God's Word. The best way for you to get the most out of the sermon is to study the passage that will be preached on before you come on Sunday morning. Every week, we publish the next week's passage in the weekly bulletin.

[Slide 12: MUSIC]

Music as a form of Worship

[Slide 13: 3 REASONS WE UTILIZE MUSIC]

3 reasons we utilize music to worship God

- To reflect the picture of Heaven... reflect the picture of God’s Glory [Zephaniah 3:17; Hebrews 2:22; Ephesians 5:18-21]
- That we might respond fully to Him [The Psalms]
- And, to remember and meditate on His Word [Colossians 3:16]
 - ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

[Slide 14: JACOB QUOTE ON MUSIC]

*Worship is not a ramp up to the sermon, getting people ready to hear the message. It is what we do in response to God's glory and grace as revealed in the Scriptures. We should come to church already worshipping. So, when we gather as a church, in order to most appropriately respond to God as He is revealed through His Word, our worship must be both God-centered and Bible-centered. As we gather around the Word each Sunday morning for God to conform us to His likeness, we not only are to do so in the proclamation of the Word, but in our singing as well. So, worship should correspond with the preaching of the Word. And both are worship. – **Jacob Haywood***

Concerning music, Pastor Jacob knows what he is preaching and realizes that the songs we sing should be a direct correlation with the message. So, he will send songs to our creative/music team for them to practice and lead the congregation in worship of God.

[Slide 15: GIVING]

Giving as a form of Worship [2024 Ministry Plan]

Now, we would like to take this time to discuss ways we Worship God through our Giving.

[Slide 16: GIVING IS WORSHIP]

And trust me, **it really is an act of worship toward God who has given and provided us with everything we ever need.**

God is our provider. The Bible teaches that everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. He promises in **Matthew 6:33** to provide for our needs. **Psalm 24:1** says, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...”

Therefore, we are mere stewards of what God has given to us. Our time of giving is an understanding of our responsibility to give back to God what is already His.

[Slide 16A: OPTIONS TO GIVE]

- ONLINE – SAFE – SECURE AND RECURRING
- TEXT TO GIVE
- GIVE IN PERSON OR MAIL IN

[Slide 17: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS]

CONCLUSION

We obviously can't tackle everything there is to say about worship in this class. But it's important for us to consider how we, *the local church* – gathered together by God - can help each other toward the ultimate goal of worshipping Christ.

Therefore, it's essential to be reminded every Sunday of the opportunity we get to worship God with each other – His people. We should appreciate the moments we have with each other... *this community of believers*... knowing that we will worship with these brothers and sisters, along with millions more, for all eternity.

Any questions?

[Slide 18: GROW IN COMMUNITY]

PART 2: GROWING IN COMMUNITY

Worship may be our time to learn “corporately,” but Scripture also directs us to grow through relationships... so, now we're going to transition and start talking about how we **Grow in Community**.

Quick Question: Before we begin, I want you to stop and think about something. Actually, I want you to write this down on the paper in front of you... I want you to think back over your life.

[Slide 19: 5 SERMONS]

- What are the **five** [5] most influential sermons you have ever heard?
 - Topics or chapter & verse.

[Slide 20: 5 PEOPLE]

- Now, think about **five** [5] people who have influenced your life.
 - I want you to down their names.

If I were a betting person, I would bet you had difficulty listing the topics of the **five** [5] most influential sermons

- BUT, I'd also be willing to bet it was much easier for you to list the names of **five** [5] people who have influenced you the most.

[Slide 21: RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNITY]

The reason it is easier to name people who have influenced you is because **relationships** are important to all of us – **community** is important to all of us.

- This is because God designed us as social creatures who have a NEED for community – both with God and with each other.

[Slide 22: COMMUNITY IN LOCAL CHURCH]

Community in the Local Church involves engaging with Scripture, Prayer & One Another

Acts 2:42-47 illustrates the essence of biblical community within the early church. It serves as an example of the unity and care that characterized their shared life together.

Beginning in **verse 42...** [Read 42-47]

*⁴² They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they **devoted themselves** to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

From this passage we can also see some very clear principles about what community should look like in the local church.

[Slide 23: DEVOTED TO]

In **verse 42**, Luke describes how the early church was **devoted** themselves to the apostles' **teaching**, **fellowship**, and **prayer**.

- These principles guide our Community Groups today, with Scripture always at the center.

While we study the Bible, our groups go beyond mere study; we take fellowship seriously. Fellowship-- in the Greek – is the word, "**koinonia**." **KOINONIA** signifies a deeper connection under a common purpose, making gospel fellowship powerful in its unity amid diversity.

[Slide 24: DISCOVER COMMUNITY ONLINE]

[Slide 25: WHAT ARE COMMUNITY GROUPS?]

What are Community Groups?

At FBC Portland, we emphasize the significance of spiritual growth, both in discipleship and through sanctification. Therefore, our goal is to encourage every person to do life together with other believers in a Community Group. Our on-campus Community Groups offer a setting where members can connect on a personal level. These groups meet nearly every Sunday morning from **9:45-10:45**.

Community Groups are designed to help a church like FBC Portland feel much smaller. In our local church context, you may walk into the building and see no one you know. But, when you are a part of a group... well that group becomes YOUR PEOPLE – hopefully like family. Speaking of family, your family's spiritual growth is a priority for us. Our groups are a place to pray together, study God's Word, and build lasting friendships.

As we go through this session, we will talk about options for all ages... from preschoolers, all the way through college and senior adults.

So, let's get started

[Slide 26: Who are the Adult CG's?]

Who are Your Adult Community Groups?

[Slide 27: handout/ slide]

[Handout showing our different Sunday am groups.]

[Slide 28: WHAT DO THEY STUDY?]

What do Your Adult Sunday AM Community Groups study?

Our commitment to spiritual growth is revealed in the many forms of classes and curriculum that we offer.

LIFEWAY MATERIALS:

- Gospel Project; Bible Studies for Life; and Explore the Bible

[Slide 29: Text Based Curriculum]

Text-Based Curriculum:

- ***Follows the sermon on Sunday.*** Through this curriculum, we carefully prepare questions or quotes to guide personal and group study. These resources are meant to deepen your understanding of the Bible and its relevance to our lives.

[Slide 30: What do Sunday PM CG's study?]

What do Sunday PM Community Groups study?

CORE SEMINARS

CORE Seminars are studies designed to provide you tools in your tool belt to be an active member of God's church and an active part of His kingdom! These Seminars help us to comprehend the details and truths of Scripture and what they reveal about our God. Along the way, our hope is that you all grow in your theology, and understanding of how we are all called to be an active part of His ministry.

[Slide 31: CORE SEMINARS LINK ONLINE]

[Slide 32: CGs for kids & Students]

Community for FBC Kid's and Students

We want you to know that we have lots of ways for your whole family to get connected in a Community Group. Our kid's and student ministries offer Sunday morning Community Groups as well as opportunities on Wednesday night throughout the school year. These groups are designed for your children to get connected and to grow in community.

[Slide 33: ONLINE LINK FOR KIDS]

What about the kids? I don't know if you have noticed – but our kids department is GROWING! We are excited about what God is doing in our kid's ministry and how that will impact the future of First Baptist Church.

Preschool Kids

At FBC Portland, our aim is to guide children in understanding the truths of scripture and discover the forgiveness and love that only God through Jesus can offer. To achieve this, our dedicated teachers lead children through age-appropriate content which helps them know the stories of the Bible.

In our preschool group, each week is filled with engaging activities and opportunities to memorize Scripture. As the session progresses, they transition to an exciting segment we fondly call "Downtown." Here, they sing songs, delve into their Bible story, and participate in interactive elements that breathe life into the teachings of the Bible.

Elementary Kids

In our older kids' group at FBC Portland, every week is filled with opportunities for growth. They engage in scripture memorization, tackle challenging questions related to the Bible story, and grow in community. As the session progresses, they transition to an exciting segment we call "UpTown." Here, they dive deeper into their Bible story and participate in interactive elements that enhance the effectiveness of the lesson, making their learning even more enriching.

- Future we will provide a children's church service.

Security for Children's Area

No matter how old your child is, one of our highest priorities at FBC is your child's safety. When you arrive at FBC, our volunteers at the check-in desk will greet you, check-in your child and will learn more about your children [including allergies and special instructions]. Before you leave the check-in area, we will provide both you and your child with a unique code that will help when picking up your child. In addition, every volunteer who works in our Kids department submits to a thorough background check. In addition to a background check, we train and orient volunteers about safety and security protocols.

Any questions?

[Slide 34: ONLINE LINK TO STUDENTS]

What about the Students? FBC Students consist of middle and high school students [grades 6-12]. Our students exist to encourage and equip students to take the next step toward owning their faith in Jesus Christ.

Community Groups

Our gatherings at FBC Portland kick off with a shared breakfast, providing an opportunity for everyone to mingle and connect as a larger group. Following this, we engage in brief announcements before delving into a recap of Pastor Jacob's sermon from the previous week. With a moment of prayer, we then transition into smaller, age-appropriate Community Groups, where deeper discussions and connections take place.

Midweek [Wednesday Night]

We regroup again every Wednesday from **6:30-7:30pm** in the Upper Room for Midweek. During this time, they have a large group activity, then we praise and worship God in song by our student Worship Team. After that we get challenged by a practical teaching series from God's Word that helps be doers of the Word and not hearers only [**James 1:22**].

If you are interested in being part of the incredible journey of seeing God change students' lives, we have a place for you!

Contact Pastor Mike if you'd like to know more about our student ministry.

Any questions?

So, What's Next?

Our next session will be all about discovering opportunities to serve and engage in mission. During this session, our focus will be on understanding the impact of the unique gifts given to us by God and how they contribute to the growth of His church. We'll explore the process of discerning spiritual gifts through the discipleship process and ways to be open-handed with the gifts God has given to you. Once you've identified your spiritual gifts, we will introduce various opportunities for you to serve and contribute to the community here at FBC Portland.

Last we'll discuss mission opportunities, Who's Your One, and other methods of evangelism.