

Preamble

(Week 1)

Focus of this Study: “Discovering God’s unique purpose for First Baptist Church of Batesville, Arkansas.”

Introduction

(Day 1)

We are excited you are with us! We are excited about the endless possibilities of a church sold out to Him! While you might still have some questions regarding this Bible study entitled *Vision Walk*, do not let those unanswered questions distract you from the focus of this study – discovering God’s unique purpose for First Baptist Church of Batesville, Arkansas.

For the next eight weeks, we will be discovering the unique purpose God has for our church as revealed through the scripture, through prayer, and through the Body of believers. We will be studying what the Bible reveals about seven central truths as they pertain to the purpose of His Church. These truths are as follows:

1. Centrality of Christ Central Truth: “Growing an environment where it becomes very uncomfortable to honor self or elevate one’s personal group or agenda.”
2. Evangelizing the World Central Truth: “Recognizing that we have been given the greatest assignment in the world – representing Christ to the lost.”
3. Movement to Maturity Central Truth: “A Body which takes God’s goal of maturity seriously and personally.”
4. Fellowship Central Truth: “The Body must respond to itself as parts connected at the heart.”
5. Integration Central Truth: “The church coming together to understand itself as a unit.”
6. Corporate Worship Central Truth: “It is a holy opportunity to be in His presence together.”
7. Denomination Central Truth: “Realizing that we are better together than we could ever be as one church alone.”

As we study these truths, we encourage each individual to examine his/her own heart according to the scripture and to respond as led by the Holy Spirit. Collectively, we encourage the Body of believers to examine the heart of our church as we share with one another, and more importantly, as we pray together for His wisdom and guidance.

Points of Prayer

Please take a few moments and pray that God will give you the opportunity each day to study His Word and to talk to Him. Pray for patience as we work together as a Body to determine God's purpose for our church. Pray for His presence as we depend on Him for guidance and direction for our church. Pray for a renewed spirit as we become closer to Him and closer to one another in Him.

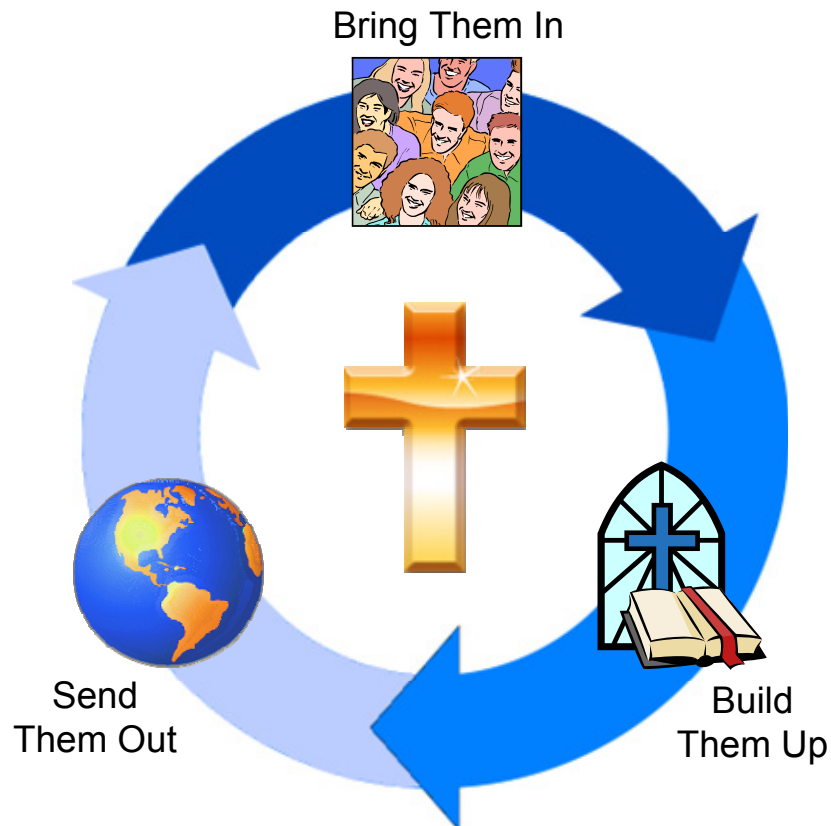
Our Mission Statement, Part 1 "Bring Them In" (Day 2)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28: 18-20 (NIV)

In Day 1, we reviewed the seven central truths that we will be studying in scripture. Each of these truths supports the three parts of our church's mission statement:

"Bring Them In. Build Them Up. Send Them Out."



While our mission statement is based on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we realize that there are more details revealed to us in the Bible on what exactly Jesus meant in his instruction to all Christians. Let's start with the first part of our mission statement, "Bring Them In."

Read Luke 8:4-15

As Christians, we are the farmers sowing the seed, God's Word. God commands us to share the Gospel to a lost world. In order to share the Gospel, we must be prepared. We must know Jesus ourselves in order to give our testimony. We must be in the Word, so we know the truth for ourselves. We must share the truth realizing God provides "all authority in heaven and on earth."

Points of Prayer

Please take a few moments and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can share the Gospel with others. Pray for a greater compassion for others. Pray for the strength and courage to obey. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray for ability to hear His voice as He prompts us to share.

Our Mission Statement, Part 2 “Build Them Up” (Day 3)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28: 18-20 (NIV)

As mentioned in Day 2, we not only need to bring people into the family of God, we also need to “Build Them Up.” We need to teach them to obey everything that He has commanded.

Read 1 John 2:1-17

As a Body of believers, we must be different than the world. We must teach one another to obey according to the scriptures, not to the ways of this world. We must love one another as Christ loved us. We must support one another in love, in prayer, and in deed.

Points of Prayer

Please take a few moments and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can build others up in Christ. Pray for healing in broken fellowship with others. Pray for the strength and courage to resolve conflict in a God-honoring way. Pray for opportunities to encourage one another. Pray for an unselfish heart and a greater love for fellow Christians.

Our Mission Statement, Part 3 “Send Them Out” (Day 4)

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28: 18-20 (NIV)

Today, we cover the last part of our mission statement, “Send Them Out.” This relates to the simple word, “go.” Jesus simply told us to “go.” In order to “Bring Them In,” we must first “Send Them Out.”

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the

workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

- Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

“The harvest is plentiful, but workers are few.” We need people making disciples in all nations. This includes our city, our county, our state, our country, and our world. We must go wherever He leads.

Points of Prayer

Please take a few moments and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can go and make disciples. Pray for a greater burden for the hearts of men. Pray for the strength and courage to obey.

Our Responsibility (Day 5)

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- Romans 12:3-9 (NIV)

In carrying out the mission of our church and discovering the purpose of our church, we need every member of the church actively involved. We need everyone doing what God has called them to do in order to have a healthy Body that works as God intended. We need Him, and we need each other in order to “Bring Them In. Build Them Up. Send Them Out.” It is an ongoing mission that continues “to the very end of the age.”

Points of Prayer

Please take a few moments and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways that you can be involved. Pray that He will show you the gift He has given you. Pray that He will enable you to use the gift for His glory and honor. Pray that He will be glorified and honored by our service to one another.