

Announcements

There will be an Image Kids lunch for parents and volunteers on August 8. More information to come soon.

We need your help in Image Kids and First Impressions -- there are a lot of opportunities to serve! You can sign up to serve at imageatl.com/serve.

Prayer Suggestions

Immigration

Last Friday, a federal judge in Texas ruled that the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program could no longer continue. DACA was a program created in 2012 intended to give children brought to the states as undocumented immigrants a way to defer deportation and obtain work permits (it does not at this time provide a pathway to citizenship). Immigration is a complicated and often highly politicized topic. But whatever your opinions on immigration policy, DACA, and creating pathways to citizenship, we need to remember that we are discussing real people and that their lives actually hang in the balance of our “abstract” policy discussions. We need to remember that most of the immigrants crossing our border are fleeing terrible situations: hunger, lack of jobs, increasing poverty, lack of healthcare, no education, drug and gang wars, political intimidation, corrupt leadership, and increasing violence. Statistics tell us that less than 1 in 10 immigrants will ever be welcomed into the home of an American. Many of these immigrants are believers, meaning they are our family. Scripture tells us that what affects one part of our family affects us all (Romans 12:15, 1 Corinthians 12:26). Scripture also tells us to love others the way we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39); to love others the way Jesus loves us (John 13:34 & 1 John 4:7-21); and to treat immigrants and strangers as the same as we are (Leviticus 19:34). Statistics tell us that less than 1 in 10 immigrants will ever be welcomed into the home of an American.

With all of this in mind, here are some prayer suggestions:

- Pray for wisdom and empathy for our leaders as they navigate this and create laws on immigration
- Pray for wisdom and empathy for ourselves as we navigate these discussions and interact with our neighbors who are immigrants
- Pray for the immigrants (undocumented and otherwise) to feel welcomed in our country
- Pray that our words and actions will affirm the God-given dignity of the immigrants in our midst.
- Pray for friendships with the immigrants living in your communities
- Pray for an end to the situations that cause people to flee their homelands
- Pray that the immigrants and refugees reaching the US will experience the love of Christ through us and come to know Him

Joshua Project Unreached Peoples: <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>

Family Time

Family Time is an intentional space where we live out the model we see in Acts 2:42. We want to be devoted to the Word together, break bread, fellowship, and pray. It's also a place where we practice hospitality. We want this time to foster both spiritual and relational growth moving the group from acquaintances and friends to family. Family Time begins with conversations around a meal, followed by a discussion about Sunday's sermon.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

Title: Go and Multiply

Series: Standalone, Pastor Jeremy Woods

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

Other Scripture/Cross References

Mentioned in the sermon:

Genesis 1:28

Matthew 28:19

Main Points

From the beginning, God's heart was to multiply

Paul motivates Timothy to multiply the faith

There are 3 big factors at work:

- 1) The **Means** of Multiplication: the Grace of God (vs1)
 - a) The Church is in place to multiply the strength of a present, pursuing, protecting Father God into the lives of one another
 - b) It is by the grace that is in Christ Jesus that we are empowered
 - i) Grace is only amazing if you realize you're a wretch without God
 - ii) Grace is God taking the condemnation we deserve so that we could receive the commendation that only He deserves
 - c) Grace does 3 things
 - i) Welcomes you home
 - ii) Changes your heart
 - iii) Multiplies your hope
 - d) Grace is not opposed to effort but earning -- God did the work to accomplish salvation, now He's actively working to apply salvation by the power of His Spirit through the witness of His church
- 2) The **Method** of Multiplication: Relationships (vs2)
 - a) Any true vision of multiplication must be multi-generational
 - b) God puts character before competence
 - i) Christian character is not about perfection but direction
 - ii) If you want to know your character, it is the sum of your dependence and the seat of your desire
 - (1) On what/who am I depending?
 - (2) What/who am I desiring?
 - c) Discipleship & multiplication happens in relationships
 - d) If faith is not multiplying through you, it may never have multiplied to you
- 3) The **Mindset** of Multiplication: Soldier, Athlete, Farmer (vs2)
 - a) Soldier
 - i) A good soldier suffers after their Superior

- ii) Soldiers are not “entangled in civilian pursuits” -- not distracted
- iii) When we are too busy to make disciples, we are too busy worshipping idols
- b) Athlete
 - i) A good athlete plays by the rules
 - ii) God gives us rules for good, not grief
 - iii) God makes the rules but gives us the resources
 - (1) His Spirit to empower
 - (2) His Word to guide
 - (3) His people to love
- c) Farmer
 - i) A good farmer works hard for the harvest
 - ii) More about a lifestyle than leisure
 - iii) Motivated by a clear vision
 - (1) The farmer understand the work they do today will make it possible to enjoy fruit tomorrow

It is only when we fix our thoughts on the grace and grit of Jesus that we own the call to multiplication

Quotes

Robert Coleman “willing to follow (dependence), wanting to be used (desire). This is the form of Christian character (*Master Plan of Evangelism*)

Robert Coleman “One living sermon is worth 100 explanations”

Authority without authenticity is exploitation. Authenticity without authority is suffering.
Authenticity with authority is flourishing.

Questions

1. What challenged you? What were your takeaways? What encouraged or convicted you?
2. What questions do you have?
3. Grace
 - a. Define grace.
 - b. How have you seen evidence of God’s grace in your life?
4. Character
 - a. What does it mean that christian character is not about perfection but direction?
 - b. On what/who are you depending the most?
 - c. What/who do you desire the most?
5. Mindset
 - a. Soldier
 - i. How often are you “entangled in civilian pursuits” (distracted) rather than focused on Christ and His mission?
 - ii. How can you refocus on Christ?
 - b. Athlete
 - i. How do you relate to God’s rules? Do you see them as for good or for grief? (no “Sunday school” answers allowed)
 - ii. How do the resources God gives help us live within the boundaries God has set for us?
 - c. Farmer
 - i. Are you motivated by a clear vision?
 - ii. Do you work hard for the harvest?
6. How are you multiplying the gospel in your life?
7. Are you willing to go wherever God leads and do whatever God calls you to multiply the gospel? Why or why not?
8. Where are you being called to multiply the gospel in your life (local, national, international, etc)?

Points of Theology and Other Useful Definitions

Strengthened -- vs 1

ένδυναμώ endynamoo (pronounced en-doo-nam-o'-o)

To empower, enable, increase in strength, be strong

To be strong, endue with strength, strengthen

To receive strength, be strengthened, increase in strength

In a bad sense -- to be bold, headstrong

From en έν and dynamoo δυνάμω

En -- a preposition denoting position in time/place/state/etc -- translated as by, in, with, at, upon, on, etc

Dynamoo -- to make strong, confirm, strengthen

Other Resources

OS Guinness, *The Call*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Jill Briscoe, *Here I Am Lord Send Somebody Else*

Jennie Allen, *Restless*

David Platt, *Follow Me*

Prayer (10-15 min)

Discipleship Groups

Discipleship Groups are where our community groups divide into gender-specific groups for a time of more intentional discussion and connection. This creates a safer and more intimate space to open up our hearts in order to grow deeper in the gospel. This time begins with a discussion about Sunday's sermon and then transitions to a time of transparency where we are honest about where we are relationally, personally, missionally, and spiritually.

Sermon Discussion (30-40 min)

See Sermon Discussion Notes above.

RPMS (30-45 min)

R	How are you doing RELATIONALLY ? (friends, coworkers, neighbors, spouses, family -- also, how are you building relationships with people different from you or on the margins?)
P	How are you doing PERSONALLY ? (emotionally, mentally, physically, financially, etc.)
M	How are you doing MISSIONALLY ? (what you're doing daily to be on mission, how you're engaging people, etc)

S

How are you doing **SPIRITUALLY**?
(time with God, in Scripture, what you're learning, who you're learning from, memorization, etc.)

Prayer (10-15 min)