



THE
COMPASS

Christmas Eve



December 24, 2016



THE
ASCENT
CHURCH

Get Connected

If this is your first visit, thank you for joining us. We hope your visit is meaningful! Please fill out a Connection Card and drop it in the offering box or at the Welcome Area so we will know you were here. For all guests and attenders, below are steps you can take to engage in our community.



Explore I

Learn more about our church, meet our Campus Pastors and others on our leadership team.

- Woodmoor Campus: January 8, 10:15 am in Room 212.
- Northgate Campus: January 15, 11:30 am in lobby.

No pre-registration required.



Explore II

Explore II is a workshop for those ready to make The Ascent Church their church home and to be involved in God's mission and vision in our region. Explore II includes why and how to become a member, our trail map for each family member, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly at both campuses.



Base Camps

Base Camps are neighborhood-based groups that meet regularly around our community. To build deeper relationships with your neighbors, visit our website at theascentchurch.com/basecamps.



Equipping

Our Equipping Classes are designed to help further your walk with Christ. There are many short-term classes offered at both campuses, as well as ongoing women's and men's Bible studies. For more information, visit our website at: www.theascentchurch.com/equipping.




Serving Opportunities

How is God calling you to help create a welcoming and inviting Sunday experience for our guests and regular attenders? Serving opportunities are available in many areas from Hosting and Greeting, Service Prep Teams, or Technical and General Set-Up Teams. Training is available for each role.


If you have any questions about hosting or serving roles, please email info@theascentchurch.com.

Community Life



WOTA Gather

January 4, 6:30-8pm in the Event Center at the Woodmoor Campus. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share; hot chocolate bar provided. Our own Judi Hayes will be sharing. *Childcare available, please register your children by January 1.*



EXPLORE I
An Orientation of The Ascent

Woodmoor Campus: January 8, 10:15am
Northgate Campus: January 15, 11:30am
Join us for an introduction to The Ascent Church!
No pre-registration required.

Response Time

Each Sunday service, after the message, we have a time of response to God. We invite you to engage in worship through some tangible ways throughout our worship space.

- Communion: Available to all who profess Jesus Christ
- Prayer: Pastors or Prayer Partners available in the room
- Song: Engage in singing and expression to God
- Offering: Offering boxes and kiosks are available for giving
- Other: At times we will offer artistic/tactile worship stations

We invite you to move around the room at your own pace and in freedom to worship and respond to God as you feel led. You may engage these areas of worship in any order and at your own pace.



End of Year Giving:

All end-of-year giving will need to be completed by December 31 in order to qualify for the 2016 tax year. If you have any questions, please contact: tara@theascentchurch.com.



Giving at The Ascent

- Offering boxes during worship
- Online www.theascentchurch.com/give1
- Kiosk
- The Ascent Church App

Financial information can be obtained by contacting Tara at tara@theascentchurch.com.

Connection Opportunities *This Week*



Ascent Student Ministry

ASM Tuesday Dates: January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 for MS and HS.

- Middle School: 5:30-6:45pm
- High School: 7:00-8:45pm

ASM Upcoming Events:

Middle School Snowbound Retreat on January 20-22. Sign up by January 2 for an amazing weekend for middle schoolers at Frontier Ranch.

www.theascentchurch.com/students

ASM Deep

ASM DEEP Dates: January 8, 15, 29.

- Northgate: 10:15am, upstairs.
- Woodmoor: 11am, upstairs.

Children's Ministry

(Birth - 6th grade)

Tiny Town: Birth - PreK

Adventure Quest: K - 4th grade

Elevate: 5th - 6th grade

- Woodmoor Campus: 9am, 11am
- Northgate Campus: 10am

More information at:

www.theascentchurch.com/kids

Missions

Visit: www.theascentchurch.com/missions.



Equipping Ministry

Connections Class:

Sundays, 10:45am, Woodmoor Campus Room 213. The Connection Class is studying the prophecies of Zechariah until the end of the year, and starting a new study in January.

Parents of Teens Class: Sundays, 10:45am, Woodmoor Campus Room 210.

Women's and Men's Ministries

Men on the Ascent Bible Study:

1 & 2 Corinthians, 6:00am coffee; 6:15am start.

- Woodmoor Campus: Room 213
- Northgate: Cafe Communitas at Marcos Pizza

Women on the Ascent Studies:

- Tuesdays, 9am, Woodmoor Campus, childcare available.
- Wednesday evening study, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Woodmoor Campus, 6:30pm, childcare available.

Women on the Ascent Gather:

January 4, 6:30-8pm in the Event Center at the Woodmoor Campus. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share; hot chocolate bar provided. Our own Judi Hayes will be sharing. Childcare available; sign-up by Jan.1.

Women on the Ascent Retreat:

April 7-9, Spring Canyon Ranch in Buena Vista. Sign up now for the early bird special and payment plan. Register before February 1, the cost is only \$190 for an amazing weekend!



This Sunday's Message

The Joyful Light

Look _____ through the _____
_____. (Awe)

Luke 2:8-20

Look _____ at the _____
_____. (The war of the ages)

Revelation 12:1-5

Look to _____ the _____. (Worship)

Psalm 95:6



Shared Engagement and Preparation

The Compass is a daily devotional and study guide for individuals, families, and Base Camps. The Compass has Biblical reflections for each day, beginning on Monday and leading up to Sunday, which will help us all meditate on the week's passage. In this way, the whole of the church engages in God's Word and prepares for our time of worship and preaching.

Deep Engagement and Doable Application

In order to allow for deep impact by God through His Word, The Compass centers on one passage in three ways—as individuals, with others, in our corporate gatherings—and focuses on applying what God is showing us. Life transformation happens when God's people depend upon and live out what He has revealed to us in His Word.

Consistency Over Time

With a tool such as The Compass, we can mistakenly measure personal spiritual success or failure based on whether we've completed a given day's reflection. Instead, use The Compass as a resource for individual and community growth. If you miss a few days, move on, pick it up from the next day, and seek maturity—God will honor this.

Our prayer is that God will bless you as you seek to connect intimately with Him, intentionally with His people, and influentially in His world.

The Compass Passage for December 19 – December 24, 2016:

Philippians 2:1-18

Monday, December 26, 2016

Read: Philippians 1:1-30 and 2:1-2.

Summarize:

Philippians 1:1-11:

Philippians 1:12-26:

Philippians 1:27-30:

With what word does Paul begin chapter 2, (see ESV, NIV, or NASB)? What does this imply about chapter 1?

Noting chapter 1, what words would you use to describe Paul's attitude and emotions toward the Philippian Christians? Compare these to the terms of Philippians 2:1.

If you were to receive this letter from Paul, how encouraged, comforted, and loved would you feel? In prayer, reflect on those believers who encourage you in faith. Ask God how you can deepen your encouragement, comfort, and affection for believers you are close to.

Tuesday, December 27, 2016

Read: Philippians 2:1-2.

Review your notes from Monday (about Paul's care for the Philippian Christians). Note a few essential things you've learned below.

Whose encouragement has Paul experienced? What phrases express this emotion for Paul?

As Paul communicates with the Philippian believers, what experience of God do they share?

From whom do you receive the comfort of love? From whom do you have affection and sympathy? What encouragement do you receive from being "in Christ?" How are you part of "participation in the Spirit"?

What impacts you most about Philippians 2:1-2?

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

Read: Philippians 2:1-4.

Describe these phrases in your own words:

- encouragement in Christ
- comfort from love
- participation in the Spirit
- affection and sympathy

How do these phrases lead believers to “have the same mind... same love...and be in full accord?” Be as specific as you can.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is this sameness, Biblically?

Scholars do not think this passage is about uniformity, but about unity. What is the difference between these terms?

Write a paragraph regarding the kinds of unity believers can have.

With whom do you have or want this kind of unity? Pray for that reality to deepen with them, as well as other members within your church.

Thursday, December 29, 2016

Read: Philippians 2:5-8.

Paul likely wrote this Epistle while in Rome, 30 years after Christ's death and resurrection (see Philippians 1:13-14 and Acts 28:14–31). Commentators agree that 2:5-11 are part of an early Christian hymn or poem. What does this imply about the incarnation and deity of Christ?

Does Paul use Christ's *kenosis*—his self-emptying—as an example of how or why we should imitate Christ?

What word from verse 3 matches the *kenosis* of Jesus?

Prayerfully consider what anchors Christian humility. Are you deepening your humility before Christ? Before others? What should you do to deepen your self-emptying in imitation of Christ your Savior?

Read Philippians 2:9-11.

What is the remarkable outcome of Christ's *kenosis*? Is it a reward from God? Or an intrinsic part of emptying yourself? Or an intrinsic part of being Jesus?

What encouragement or sense of promise does God give you through this section of the Philippian hymn?

How do these verses indicate how God may want you to shine in the new year?

Friday, December 30, 2016

Read: Philippians 2:12-13.

How often do you visit a gym, run, or do something to keep in shape? How about your spiritual shape?

How comfortable are you with the concept of “working out your own salvation”? Why?

Look up the concept of a “Rule of Life” on the web. How does this speak to your answer above?

The Greek for “work out” comes from words that mean “do useful work”. Verse 12 gives a strong clue as to how you are to do useful work that relates to your salvation. Compare this to Romans 1:1-5 and Romans 1:26-27. For extra credit, see 1 Peter 1:2. What does it mean to work out your own salvation?

Journal your thoughts and prayers about the obedience Christ has called you to, noting how you are to do useful work related to the gift of salvation.

Saturday, December 31, 2016

Read: Philippians 2:4-16.

The sermon for Sunday will be titled “Shine in the New Year.” As you review this week’s Compass, how does what Paul wrote in verses 2:1-13 express how to “make [his] joy complete”?

How does Paul define the darkness of this world? Where do you see this darkness today?

What kind of activity should you do without grumbling or disputing? How does this make you blameless and innocent? What are the lights with which Paul is encouraging believers to shine?

Verse 16 and 17 include the outcome for Paul. Is he actually concerned about himself, or about the believers to whom he is writing? What is Paul willing to do for Christ? What does he suspect blameless, innocent, and children of God without blemishes might experience?

Re-read Philippians 2:1-18 with attention to the Holy Spirit’s voice. Summarize what God would have you pay attention to in the sermon on Sunday concerning the emptying yourself as a blemish-free offering.

Building Our Base Camp Family

This is week one of our suggested four-week pattern for Base Camps: intergenerational, adult study, mixed, invitation/service.

Preparation: On your laptop, find the VeggieTales “Light of Christmas” Official Lyric Video - Owl City featuring TobyMac. Also, Google search, “Jesus light of the world object lesson” and find an object to be used at the end of your discussion. Prepare the items as needed. If desired, decorate your area with Happy New Year signs or balloons and invite families to bring fun appetizers and desserts to share. Play upbeat Christian songs (99.3 Way FM is a great option,) as people are arriving. Pass out three strips of paper with one of the scriptures below to an older child who is comfortable reading aloud. Have Bibles available.

Open your discussion time with conversation about Christmas and New Year’s. Ask if anybody has a special story to tell about a special gift they gave away at Christmas. Offer encouraging feedback as children and adults share.

- Play the music video and watch together.
- Ask the kids what it means to say Jesus is the Light of Christmas?
- Tell them to think back to songs they know or lessons they have had at church this past year.
- Read John 8:12 together.
- How can **we** shine Jesus’ light in the New Year?
- Read Philippians 2:3-4 together.
- What does this verse mean?
- Read Philippians 2:14-15 together.
- What does this verse tell us to do and not to do? How can we apply this to our lives at home, at school and when we play with friends?
- Pray together and for each other.
- If possible, allow time for the “object” lesson.

Contact Us

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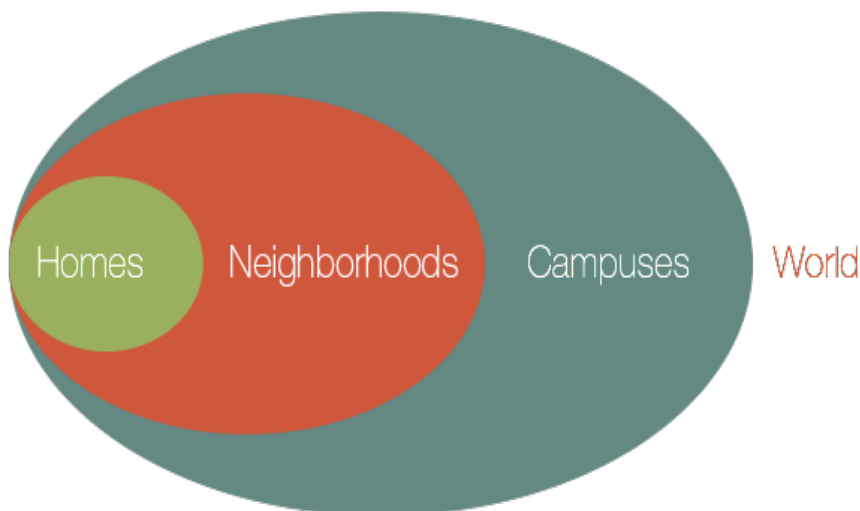
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

Mission and Vision

The mission of THE ASCENT CHURCH is to help people connect intimately with God, intentionally with God's family, and influentially with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine biblical communities on every street in our region.

Our community lives out its vision and mission within three environments:

- Home — The best place for formation and nurture.
- Neighborhood — The best place for application and outreach.
- Campus — The best place for equipping, inspiration and celebration.



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719-481-3600 - TheAscentChurch.com

Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass

If you have questions or comments, email:

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