



THE
COMPASS

Next Series:



January 3, 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 in the offering or at the Welcome Areas 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: every 2nd Sunday at 11:00 am in Room 214. Northgate Campus: every 3rd Sunday at 10:45 am in the lobby. *No pre-registration required.*



Explore II

Go deeper into the vision and mission of our church. Become an active part of our church community, learn our trail map for each person, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly at 10:45am 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.



Serving

Use your talents and interests to serve with others in your church, accomplishing common ministry goals. There are always teams you can join! Contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



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 or contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Worship Team & Technical Arts

Join our Tech Team or Worship Team. For more info, contact carson@theascentchurch.com.



Sunday Morning Team

Serve as an usher or host with the welcome team. Meet new people, serve together and grow in Christ as you serve our community. Contact joel@theascentchurch.com

Community Life

EXPLORE I

An Orientation of The Ascent

Woodmoor Campus: January 10
Northgate Campus: January 17
Join us for an introduction to
The Ascent Church!
No pre-registration required.



Explore II is a workshop for those ready to make The Ascent Church their church home and 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. This is a follow up to Explore I; but, Explore I is not a pre-requisite.

- January 24 at 10:45am at both campuses

BIBLE STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES ARE STARTING SOON!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

GO ONLINE TO FIND OUT MORE...

WWW.THEASCENTCHURCH.COM/WOMEN

www.theascentchurch.com

January
10, 2016

Transition
Update
Meeting:

4:00-5:00pm

at the
Woodmoor
Campus

Men on the Ascent Bible Study
Restarting Jan. 5, Tuesday mornings at
6:15am. Study the Gospel of Mark and apply
what you learn in daily life while connecting
with others.

- Woodmoor Campus in Rm 213.
- Northgate Campus: Cafe Communitas at Marcos Pizza.

Contact Joel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



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.

Financial Update

Christmas Eve Offering: \$12,080.50

Last Week's Offering: \$22,404.00

As of 12/31/2015:

YTD Giving:	\$533,363
YTD Actual Expenses:	\$487,375
YTD Budget:	\$628,924

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

Avg. Weekly Giving:	\$29,345
Avg. Weekly Budget:	\$36,995
Min. Weekly Need:	\$34,000



Giving @ The Ascent

- (1) Offering Boxes: cash/check (in our worship service)
- (2) Online from our website
- (3) Kiosk: In the lobby
- (4) Mobile/Text: The Ascent Church App (download from your App Store)

Connection Opportunities *This Week*



Ascent Student Ministry (ASM)

(Middle & High School)

ASM will resume meeting on Tuesdays starting Jan. 5.

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

ASM does not meet this Sunday! Future dates: Jan. 10, 17, 24. See you all in the New Year!

Email Micah, Rob & Taylor at asm@theascentchurch.com for any questions.

Children's Ministry (Birth—6th grade)

Tiny Town is available for birth - PreK:

Adventure Quest is available for K - 4th grade:

Elevate is available for 5th & 6th grade:

- Woodmoor Campus: 9:30 & 11:00am
- Northgate Campus: 9:30am

For more info, go to www.theascentchurch.com.



Ascent Missions

The Guatemala Missions Trip is scheduled for July 2016.

For more information, email asm@theascentchurch.com

Equipping, Women's and Men's Ministries

Catalyst Equipping Class: Catalyst is for those seeking to get connected with others and be equipped for Biblical community. Catalyst meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am at the Woodmoor Campus in room 212.

Parents of Teens Equipping Class: The Parents of Teens Class meets Sunday mornings, 11:00am at the Woodmoor Campus in room 210. Join other parents for support and to help one another with raising our teens.

Men on the Ascent Bible Study: *Gospel of Mark* study, Tuesdays at 6:15am; will resume Jan. 5 after the Christmas break.

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

Women on The Ascent: The winter session of Bible Studies will start on Jan. 12. Please visit the website for an updated list of Bible Studies. Neighborhood studies are also available. For more information, contact joel@theascentchurch.com.





Message Notes

Sermon Passage: The Psalms.

The Compass Passages for 1/4/16–1/9/15:

Introduction to the Psalms

This week we begin a spiritual journey into the book of Psalms. Psalms has long been an important place of refuge, comfort, challenge, encouragement, and hope for God's people of faith, especially in times of frustration, anxiety, and fear. We live in such a time. So we, the people of faith today, will turn to the Psalms like the people of faith before us, and with the presence and encouragement of Jesus in our lives, shall begin a journey to glean a word from God for our day.

Psalms speak from the heart of God to the hearts of His people. They are written in ancient Hebrew poetic form and tap the depth of thought and emotion of our very souls. They should be read reverently and reflectively with an intense desire to receive a relevant message from God for our day.

Psalms is organized into five Books, each containing many Psalms. They include songs/hymns of praise, national laments, individual laments, and prayers/songs of thanksgiving, along with reflections into many of life's great mysteries. They are called *Writings of Wisdom* and cover centuries of time and many difficult circumstances facing the people of God.

Pray your journey into the Psalms over the next several weeks will lead you to a renewed state of encouragement, strength, and hope with the LORD Jesus, our church, and the people you encounter in your daily life and activities.

Monday, January 4, 2016

Read: Today you have the opportunity to reflect upon two Psalms from Book One of the Psalms (Psalms 1-41). **Read Psalm 1 and Psalm 27.**

Now, take a moment and offer a prayer asking God to help clear your mind and heart of anything that might restrict you from receiving a word from Him today from these Psalms.

Reflect:

Look over **Psalm 1** and what it says about wickedness. Think about some of the wickedness you see near you on a regular basis. Write down what you see/observe.

Think about wickedness you hear about (but don't see first hand). Write down some of what you hear.

Write a sentence that (for you) summarizes God's Word to you from Psalm 1 regarding wickedness in the world.

Look over **Psalm 27** and list the verses that especially speak to you today.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Read: Today you are being asked to reflect upon two Psalms from Book Two of the Psalms (Psalms 42-72). **Read Psalm 42 and Psalm 52.**

Now, take a moment and offer a prayer asking God to help clear your mind and heart of anything that might restrict you from receiving a word from Him today from these Psalms.

Reflect:

Look over **Psalm 42**. Look at **verses 1-5** and write down how they apply to you.

Look at **verses 5-6**. When have you felt this way?

How do **verses 7-11** offer encouragement to you?

Look over **Psalm 52**. Evil is rampant in our world today and boasts of great victories. What does God say to you in verses 1-7 about the ultimate outcome for those who uphold evil?

Look at **verses 8-9** and write down what you believe God is revealing to you.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Read: Today you are being asked to reflect upon two Psalms from Book Three of the Psalms (Psalms 73-89). **Read Psalm 85 and Psalm 86.**

Now, take a moment and offer a prayer asking God to help clear your mind and heart of anything that might restrict you from receiving a word from Him today from these Psalms.

Reflect:

Look over **Psalm 85:1-3** and notice how the Psalmist recalls what God has done in the past. Now, **read 4-9** and make a list of what he wants God to do now.

In **Psalm 85:10-13**, the Psalmist describes what spiritual renewal is like. Write down the characteristics of spiritual renewal you see in these verses.

Look over **Psalm 86**. In this prayer, David requests God's help in his life. How is this Psalm helpful to you and your prayers? Write down your thoughts.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Read: Today you are being asked to reflect upon two Psalms from Book Four of the Psalms (Psalms 90-106). **Read Psalm 90 and Psalm 100.**

Now, take a moment and offer a prayer asking God to help clear your mind and heart of anything that might restrict you from receiving a word from Him today from these Psalms.

Reflect:

Psalm 90 offers intense reflection on the fallen state of humanity prior to knowing the Messiah (Jesus). It also provides deep insight into the concept of time (from God's perspective and ours), and offers important lessons regarding the time we have on earth. Make a list of the verses in Psalm 90 that you believe are especially important.

Psalm 100 is the classic Psalm of worship and praise. Create a list of the "verbs" in this Psalm (i.e. "make, know, etc."). Verbs are action words which direct us toward "who" and "what" for the action. Now, attach the "who" and "what" to each verb (i.e. "make" what? " - A joyful noise." "For who?" - "The Lord.")

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Friday, January 8, 2016

Read: Today you are being asked to reflect upon two Psalms from Book Five of the Psalms (Psalms 107-150). **Read Psalm 108 and Psalm 150.**

Now, take a moment and offer a prayer asking God to help clear your mind and heart of anything that might restrict you from receiving a word from Him today from these Psalms.

Reflect:

Psalm 108 is a song written by David and divided into three primary song/hymn verses. Verse one of the song is **108:1-6**. Write down what you believe are the major declarations of this verse.

Verse two of the song is **108:7-9**. Write down what you believe are the major declarations of this verse.

Verse three of the song is **108:10-13**. Write down what you believe are the major declarations of this verse.

Psalm 150 is again, a song of praise. Make a list of “where” praise is to take place and with “what.”

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Read: Look over your reflections for the five days. Pause and thank God for what He has revealed to you during your times of study and reflection. Now read **Psalm 147**.

Reflect:

Psalm 147 is an ancient hymn praising God for His universal power and providential care. In many ways it is similar to Isaiah's declaration in Isaiah 40:25-31. **Read both Psalm 147 and Isaiah 40:25-31.**

Now, write down several major points you believe God is revealing to you from these verses.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Building Our Base Camp Family

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

Prepare:

Bring lined paper and pencils/pens for everyone in your Base Camp (can be borrowed from the church). Print out Psalm 86:1-7 ([click here](#)) or make sure everyone has a Bible.

Intergenerational:

After the meal, gather all together for 10-15 minutes to write their own psalm. Using Psalm 86:1-7 as a model, write your own psalm in adult/teen or adult/child pairs. Share them at the end of the evening as you close in prayer.

Adult Study:

Read Psalm 86:8-17. Brainstorm, briefly, some of the works that distinguish The Lord from other gods (v8), and how do these reveal “you alone are God”?

What does the writer, David, ask God to “teach me”? Using just the Psalms, look for descriptions of “the Lord’s way.”

Has a song ever become a descriptor of a season of your life? How might one of these citations become a “soundtrack” for this season of your life? Of your life as part of The Ascent? Share which ones and why with the group.

End by each person reading the psalm you wrote during intergenerational time, and pray for the start of each person’s year and our year as a church.

Contact Us

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(WM-Woodmoor, NG-Northgate, CS-Central Support)

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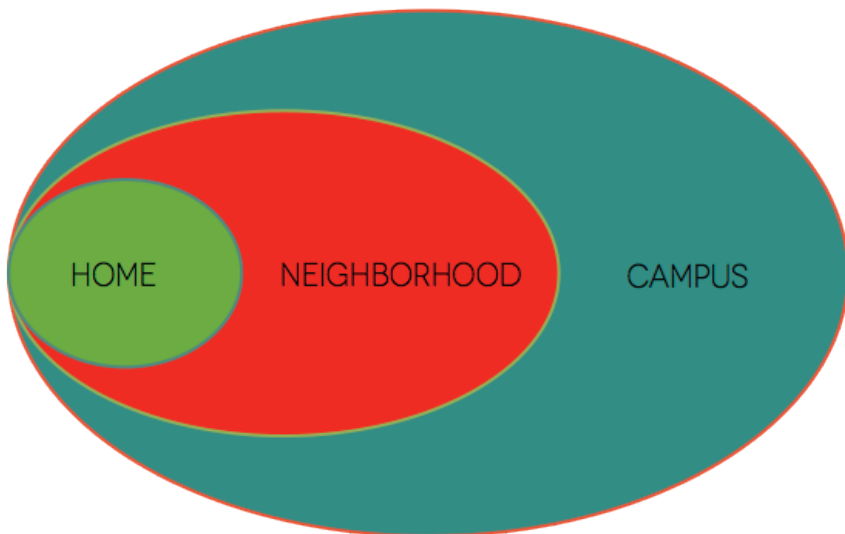
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

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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Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass.
If you have questions or comments, email:
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