




THE COMPASS

Current Series



The Storyteller
Truth Hidden In Plain Sight

April 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 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 1st Sunday, 10:45 am in Rm 214.
- Northgate Campus: every 3rd Sunday, 10:45 am in lobby.

No pre-registration required.



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 or contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Explore II

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. Next class is **TODAY**, at 10:45am at both campuses.



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 contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.

Community Life

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING APRIL 24

5:00PM AT WOODMOOR

WWW.THEASCENTCHURCH.COM



Sunday, May 8

Parent/Child
DEDICATION

Proverbs 22:6

Register: www.theascentchurch.com

New Service Times beginning May 15!

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Woodmoor | Northgate | Woodmoor |
| 9 ⁰⁰ AM | 10 ⁰⁰ AM | 11 ⁰⁰ AM |

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

Last Week's Offering: \$12,173.00
(Services cancelled due to snow)

As of 3/31/2015:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| YTD Giving: | \$912,856 |
| YTD Actual Expenses: | \$889,230 |
| YTD Budget: | \$1,109,866 |

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Avg. Weekly Giving: | \$29,521 |
| Avg. Weekly Budget: | \$36,995 |
| Min. Weekly Need: | \$31,314 |



Giving at 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

(Middle school and high school)

ASM Tuesday Dates: April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, Woodmoor Campus.

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

ASM Game Night: May 7, 6pm Woodmoor Campus.

ASM Worship Night: May 17, 6pm Woodmoor Campus.

For more information visit: www.theascentchurch.com/students.

Children's Ministry

(Birth—6th grade)

Tiny Town: Birth - PreK

Adventure Quest: K - 4th grade

Elevate: 5th - 6th grade

Elevate end of year celebration:

May 22, 12:30pm Jersey Mike's family lunch and Sky Zone, more information & sign up at:

www.theascentchurch.com/kids

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



Equipping Ministry

Classes are offered at various times on Sunday mornings.

Connections Class: Sundays, 9:15-10:30am, Woodmoor Campus Rm. 213.

Catalyst Equipping Class: Sundays, 11:00am, Woodmoor Campus Rm. 212.

Parents of Teens Equipping Class: Sundays, 11:00am, Woodmoor Campus Rm. 210.



Ascent Student Ministry Deep

ASM Deep meets Sundays for middle and high schoolers.

ASM DEEP Dates: April 24, May 8, 15, 22, upstairs at both campuses.

- Northgate: 9:00am
- Woodmoor: 11:00am

Any questions about ASM, email: asm@theascentchurch.com.

Missions

Please pray for our Missions Teams who are preparing for their trips this summer 2016.

- Guatemala Missions Trip on July 16-23.
- Dominican Republic Missions Trip on July 2-9.

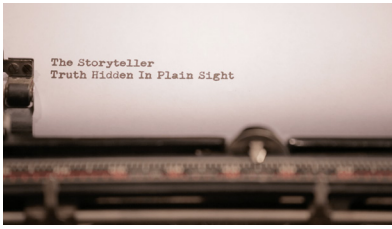
Women's and Men's Ministries

Men on the Ascent Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:15am, *Gospel of Mark* study.

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

Women on The Ascent: Please visit the website for a list of neighborhood and campus Bible Studies.

Questions, please email: joel@theascentchurch.com.



Message Notes

Sermon Passages: Luke 12:15-21.



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 Passages for 4/25/16–4/30/16: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Monday, April 25, 2016

Read: This week you'll reflect upon the parable often titled "The Weeds in the Wheat," located in Matthew 13:24-30. You can find Jesus' explanation of the parable in Matthew 13:36-43. Read these passages in two different translations if possible.

Reflect: Before you begin digesting this parable and its application for your life, lay a foundation.

Look over Genesis 1:1-31, and record the verses in which God declares creation to be good.

Now read Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17. In your opinion, what is the primary reason God didn't want the man and woman to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Before eating from the tree, man and woman had knowledge of good, and life was perfect on planet earth. After eating from the tree, man and woman obtained the knowledge of evil as well. Life was no longer perfect. Read Genesis 3:14-19, and list some of the consequences of knowing evil.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice in light of the reality of good *and* evil on earth?

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflect: In the parable, the one who sowed the good seeds decided to let the weeds grow in the midst of the good wheat until the time of harvest. Apply the meaning of this reality (evil existing in the world along with good) to life as you live it today. Note some of the effects of both good and evil on the world today.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice? *Write a brief prayer of petition, asking for God's help as you strive to deal with the evil that lurks around you each and every day.*

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflect: Read Galatians 5:16-26. What does this passage have to do with the lessons from the parable?

Using Galatians 5:16-26, list all recorded evil and good.

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

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflect: List all elements of the parable (Matthew 13:24-30) in a column on the left. Now make a parallel list on the right with Jesus' explanation of the parable, linking the element with the explanation.

PARABLE (13:24-30)

EXPLANATION (13:36-43)

Example:

The Sower (man,owner of field) ----- The Son of Man

Review these lists, and write a brief paragraph stating the primary spiritual lesson to be gained from the parable and its explanation.

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

Friday, April 29, 2016

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflect: Upon verse 39: “The harvest is the end of the age” (NIV). Also reflect on verses 41-43. Now turn to Isaiah 2:2, 4, 12, 17, and ponder the message from these verses. Read Isaiah 1:16-18 aloud. Do the same with Matthew 7:13-23. Journal what the Spirit of God placed in your mind and upon your heart as you read these passages.

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

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Read: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflect: Review your notes and reflections from this week. Now read John 3:1-21 and Revelation 21:1-7. Transcribe what the Spirit of God revealed to you from today's exercise.

Write in one sentence what you believe is the most important point of this week's study and reflections.

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

Building Our Base Camp Family

Prepare: Fill a bag with some weeds, some small flowers or plants, two plates or trays for making piles, and pictures of people cut out of magazines.

Intergenerational:

Say: *Have any of you planted things in the garden or helped pull weeds? I haven't done a lot of gardening and I find it hard to tell the difference between the weeds and the flowers. Look at this bag. It's full of weeds and flowers. Let's see if you can tell the difference. I'll make two piles on this tray: one for the good plants and one for the weeds. What about this one? Is it a weed or a flower? How about this one?* (Some may be easy to recognize and some difficult. Have fun with this.)

Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference, especially when the plants haven't yet produced flowers. Now I want you to look at these pictures. They're pictures of people I cut out of a magazine. Why don't you try to put them in different piles. You have one pile for good people and one pile for bad people. (Hold up the pictures and ask the children to decide by looking at the people.) I don't think it's your job to put people into "good people" and "bad people" categories. In your Bible reading today from Matthew chapter 13, Jesus makes it clear that it's not really your job to decide who the good and bad people are in this world. God knows his friends and enemies. Your job is to show the love of Jesus to everyone.

Sample Prayer: *Dear God, help me not to worry too much about who's good and who's bad. Help me show the love of Jesus to everyone. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Source: Andrew Hewlett www.sundaychildrensfocus.com/lectionary/kids-sermon-weeds-and-the-wheat

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

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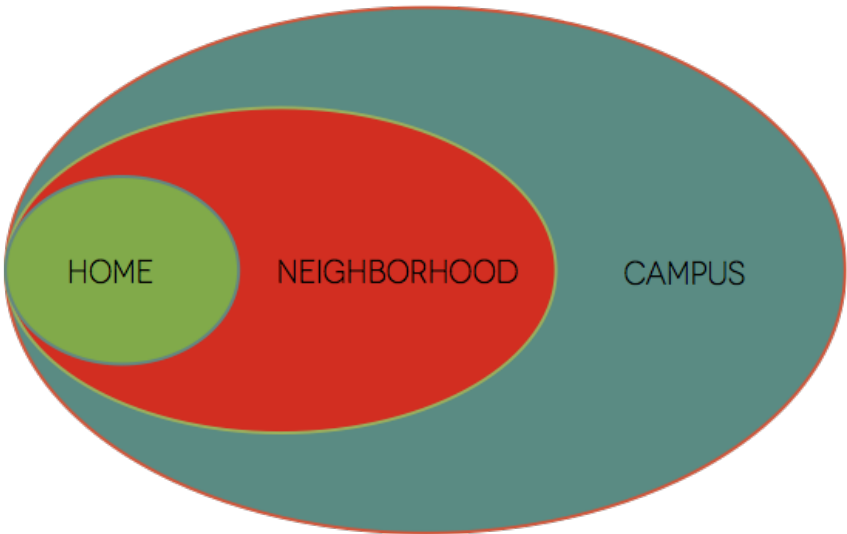
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

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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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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