

LEGACY CHURCH BELONG COURSE

Week 2 | Intention : Why Legacy Church Does What It Does | 2.18.23

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. For the next two weeks (*February 18th, and 25th*), we will be continuing through our Legacy Church Belong Course. The goal of this series is to circle back around the things that matter most to us as a ministry.
1. **Week 1** (2.4)—VISION—(*Who is Legacy Church and what is its mission*)
 2. **Week 2** (2.18)—INTENTION—(*Why Legacy Church does what it does*)
 3. **Week 3** (2.25)—MEANS—(*How Legacy Church is going to accomplish its mission, and what's your role in our mission*)
- B. As I said previously, it's okay to miss one of the first two sessions. You can grab both the notes and the video online and you can go through them on your own time. But, when it comes to the week 3, it's required to attend with us in person, since we will be going through a personality profile together and doing some in-person training.

II. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

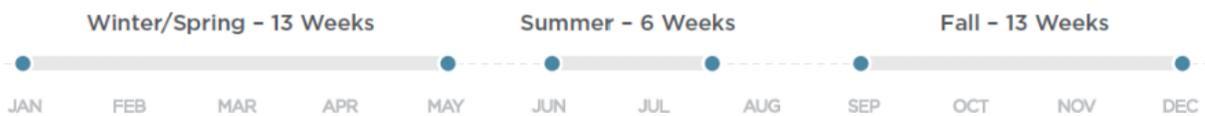
- A. **Matthew 4:17** "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- B. Dallas Willard defines the kingdom of heaven as, "*What God is doing here and now.*" What he's saying is that we enter the Kingdom of heaven, by being obsessed, consumed, and preoccupied with what God is doing right now.
- C. So we ask, what is God doing right now? Well, many things, but at the top of the list, He's loving people out of hell and into paradise through Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross.
- D. The Gospel—The Gospel is the Good News or the message of God's kingdom. The Greek word is "*Eu-angelion*", which simply means the Good News. It was a word used by doctors who came out to give a good report, or shared, "*there's nothing serious.*"
1. It was also used during wartime, where people inside the city waited for the marathon runners to return from the battlefield, as they brought the Gospel, or the Good News.
 2. The Gospel in summary form is this; God fulfilled His promise to send His son to redeem fallen humanity, who had left Him, though God hadn't left them (*this is the portion we are most familiar with*). But the Gospel is also about God rescuing His fallen creation, to restore His glory in creation/earth. And the Gospel is also about God ruling and reigning over all things with compassion and justice.
 3. Creation → Fall → Redemption → Re-Creation
 4. At Legacy Church the Gospel is what we are building our lives and the ministry on, in and around. We don't believe that the Gospel is just something that happens to us when we die, but rather the abundant life of hope, joy and faith that isn't based on fleeting circumstances, but eternal truth.
- E. The Great Commission—Jesus' last words before ascending into heaven sum up His instruction manual for ALL Churches going forward!

1. **Matthew 28:16-20** *“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. 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.”*
2. At Legacy Church our desire is to be driven by Jesus’ command to GO and make, not just converts, but devoted disciples of Jesus, who obey all the things that Jesus said.
- F. **People**—Because Jesus loved people, and gave Himself for them, Legacy Church loves people. There are two types of people God has called us to reach as a local Church as stated in the Great Commission:
 1. Those that are not here yet (*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them*).
 2. Those that are here (*Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*).
 3. **1st Thessalonians 2:8** *“So affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”*
 4. Our desire at Legacy Church is that every weekend, disciples of Jesus would be equipped to follow Christ, and people far from Christ, could be born again.
- G. **Discipleship | Spiritual Formation/Practices**—Jesus didn’t call His followers to do a bunch of religious/rote duties, but rather to become the kind of people that would fulfill the two great commandments supernaturally: *Encountering God AND the people of our culture*.
 1. The spiritual formation/practices listed below are habits that Jesus calls His followers reach for, not perfectly, but increasingly. Nobody in Jesus’ kingdom is earning their salvation through these practices. But rather, this is how we cultivate and put on the character of Christ practically, which in turn transforms us spiritually.
 2. When we first believe in Jesus and accept Him as the Lord and Savior of our lives and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us, the next thing we are called to is to be transformed from the inside out, as we become holy, or different, like He is holy (**1st Peter 1:16**).
 3. *“The main thing that you bring the Church is the person that you become, and that’s what everybody will see; that’s what will get reproduced; that’s what people will believe. Arrange your life so that you are experiencing deep contentment, joy and confidence in your everyday life with God.”* –Dallas Willard
 4. *“The most important thing in your life is not what you do; it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity.”* –Dallas Willard
 5. *“God is not opposed to effort; God is opposed to earning.”* –Dallas Willard
 6. **2nd Corinthians 3:17-18** *“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*
 - a. **Prayer**—Prayer is as vital to our spiritual life as breathing is to our natural life. Prayer is not just a religious duty but rather a portal into the presence of God Himself. Reaching to maintain a daily prayer rhythm was a defining characteristic of the early Church which prayed at least three times a day.
 1. Prayer is not just a private practice, but a corporate practice. Jesus not only invited His disciples to pray to the Father in private but also corporately with other Jesus followers.

2. At Legacy Church we desire that you would have a regular, daily time of private prayer, and that you would attend at least 2 prayer meetings a month on Tuesday nights, from 7PM-8:15PM-ish. We want to see our mid-week prayer meeting become the important gathering of the week for Legacy Church.
 - b. Scripture—Reading the Bible is one of the most important things you can do as a disciple of Jesus. I recommend everyone at Legacy Church to find a daily Bible reading plan and stick with it, not just to check off the box, but to be transformed by the renewing of your minds into greater Christ-likeness (**Romans 12:1-2**).
 - c. Fasting—Jesus famously said that, *“Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).”* Fasting is a spiritual discipline that reminds us that we are not just physical beings with natural craving, but rather first and foremost spiritual beings which hunger and thirst for God.
 1. If Jesus regularly fasted which gave Him mastery over His physical urges, how much more ought we to fast and master our own urges, addictions, inclinations? And alongside deliverance, fasting expedites the grow of our hearts in Christ.
 2. At Legacy Church our desire is to see our Church family fast one day a week. I fast on Tuesdays because it concludes with a prayer meeting in the evening. Pick a day and go for it.
 - d. Solitude—We see in the Gospels that Jesus regularly left the large crowds to be alone with God the Father. We live in a culture that’s constantly bombarding us with noise which drowns out the most important voice we need to hear for ourselves, God’s.
 1. The spiritual discipline of silence and solitude could look like setting a 10-minute timer and simply mediating on God’s goodness, or taking a hike, or sitting in your favorite chair. Whatever it is, it needs to be done regularly.
 - e. Sabbath—After God created the universe, he rested. After God called out Abraham and the nation of Israel into a covenant relationship with Himself, He likewise invited them to rest in Him. At Legacy Church I strongly believe that Sabbath isn’t just a Mosaic Law which was done away after the Old Testament.
 1. I highly encourage everyone to take a day off completely from your devices, your calendars, your emails, your work and simply rest in the finished work of Jesus on the Cross with your friends and family (**Song of Songs 2:3**).
 2. For Jennifer and I, this is Friday evenings, and Sunday. Friday nights we usually watch a movie or a show with our family, eat some sort of dessert, and the kids sleep in our room. And on Sunday’s we virtually plan nothing that’s work related.
 - f. Community—It’s hard to live the right life when your with the wrong people. We were never meant to do life alone but to exist in a community. At Legacy Church we gather on Saturdays to worship Jesus and hear God’s Word taught, Tuesdays to pray together corporately, and throughout the week (Thursdays at our house right now), in Legacy Groups, to spend time together, and pray for one another.
 1. As disciples of Christ, we order our lives around the lifestyle of Jesus. Each week we spend time praying together, having honest conversation, and creating space for the Holy Spirit to speak. We believe that spiritual formation takes place in community. Through deep relationships and accountability, we are able to see our lives transformed to become more like Jesus.
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III. LEGACY GROUPS

- A. Legacy Group(s) are how we do “Community” at Legacy Church. We’ve based our Legacy Group(s) on what we see from the early Church in the book of Acts. In the book of Acts, you can read about how small group meetings in homes helped lay a foundation for tremendous growth in the first Church in Jerusalem.
 - 1. **Acts 2:40-47** *“And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, be saved from this perverse generation. Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostle’s doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles...So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved.”*
- B. Legacy Church desires to be a Church of Legacy Group(s), not a Church WITH Legacy Groups. Our desire is that every person would find meaningful community, not just in our larger corporate gatherings, but also in small settings, among Legacy Group(s).
- C. Legacy Group(s) provide three primary things:
 - 1. A Place To Connect With Others—We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Legacy Group(s) provide a place for you to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.
 - a. **1st Corinthians 9:22** *“...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”*
 - 2. A Place To Protect Each Other—When we do life together, our problems become smaller as God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Legacy Group(s) become a place where others don’t just know your name but also care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your discipleship to Jesus.
 - a. **1st John 3:16** *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”*
 - 3. A Place To Grow Together—I believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Legacy Group(s) are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the destiny God has placed inside you.
 - a. **Proverbs 27:17** *“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”*
- D. Three Things To Know About Our Legacy Group(s)
 - 1. There Are Three Semesters Every Year—Life flows in seasons, and we want to make it easy for you to be in the right Legacy Group for you in each season.



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- 2. Everyone Can Join A Group—Our hope at Legacy Church is that every person gets connected in a meaningful community.

3. Anyone Can Host A Legacy Group—We believe that hosting a Legacy Group is simple because we all have something to offer others. Whether it's something you are passionate about, and experience you'd had that can help others, or an area in which you are looking to grow, hosting a group is a great way to bring people together in meaningful community.
 - a. To learn more about becoming a Legacy Group leader, attend a Legacy Group Leadership Training. Even if you're not ready to host a group, we invite you to come to a training session.
 - b. *Currently there isn't a training scheduled, but because we need more Legacy Groups, we'd be delighted to host a training to see you equipped. Let us know how we can help.*
- E. **Week 3 | 2.28.23** | Means—*How is Legacy Church going to accomplish it's mission and your role in it.*
- F. Questions?