

Big Idea: The church is a table where people come to be fed.

Last Supper

Jesus knew He was about to die. He had one final evening with His closest disciples. He didn't give them a monument or make a speech. He gave them a meal. The Passover meal is still celebrated annually among devout Jews. The meal celebrates God's intervention and protection that led to the great Exodus from 400 years of bondage in Egypt.

Q1: What is the Church?

There are many good answers to this question. At GRACE, we see the church as "a table where people come to be fed." Jesus said in John 6:35, *"I am the bread of life."* When He called Himself the *"bread of life"*, He was drawing on a rich symbol of Jewish life. Throughout the Exodus, God miraculously sustained His people by sending bread from heaven each morning (*manna*). He was indicating that He was God's provision for the people's deepest spiritual needs.

Q2: Who is at the Table?

In other words, what kind of people attend this church? It's easy to assume that we are all the same. That would be a bad assumption. Actually, there are 3 kinds of people at the table.

1. Seekers and Skeptics

Seekers are hungry. They are looking for a change and are willing to give the church a try. Often an emptiness in life brings them to church. Usually seekers are skeptical, hesitant, and maybe frustrated because of the baggage they may have created. Every Sunday when we gather there are seekers and skeptics sitting around you. Remember that please.

2. New Believers

New believers want to grow. Unlike seekers and skeptics, they have stepped over the line and decided to follow Christ. There are few things in our work that are as exciting as watching a skeptic or seeker come to faith in Christ and then begin to grow. Every Sunday when we gather there are new believers sitting around you. Remember that please.

3. Christ-followers

Christ-followers are hungry as well. They have grown in their faith and it's their responsibility to reach seekers and serve new believers. Many assume that the church should be filled entirely with Christ-followers. That's another bad assumption! Who will lead? Who will serve? Who will reach out to seekers, skeptics, and new believers?

The Great Commission

This is the model of the NT church. The model is reflected in the Great Commission. This is how Jesus commissioned His disciples before he left the earth, *"Go and make disciples (of seekers and skeptics)... baptizing them (new believers)... and teaching them to obey (Christ-followers) everything I have commanded you."* - Matthew 28:19-20

Family Night – Read Luke 22:7-23

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Who did Jesus send to get ready for the Passover meal? How would they know where to gather for the meal? What did Jesus say when he gave the disciples the bread and the cup of juice?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "What does the bread and cup represent when we observe communion? Why should we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us? How should we respond in light of His sacrifice?"

Prayer: "Father, thank You for giving us Jesus. His sacrifice will always be remembered. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity will resume on September 6th.

Today's Songs

I Thank God.....Maverick City

Me On Your Mind.....Matthew West

How Good It Is.....Chris Tomlin

Grandparents Day

Join us in KidsJAM on September 13 for Cookies, Milk and Bingo. All grandparents are welcome. We will see you between the services, 10:35-10:55.

Gravity (Middle School Service)

Starting September 6th, all Middle School Students are invited to the Velocity Theater on Sundays at the start of the message for a lesson designed for them.

Small Group Leadership Training

Training is Saturday, September 19. Check out the QR Code in the Lobby or contact Tyler.

Impact

See a need, meet a need, make an Impact. Find out how you can serve in our community through our Church App and Facebook page.