

Vision FBC



Theology

Discipleship Evangelism

Vision FBC

Serious About Truth; Serious About People.

Theology

Biblical Worship
Sunday School
Theological Institute
Information Circulation

Discipleship

Corporate Unity
Men's Ministry
Women's Ministry
Family Ministry
Small Groups

Evangelism

Biblical Counseling Center
Effective Communication
Intentional Missions
Community Care
Gospel Outreach

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Introduction

Without direction, a person is lost. Without purpose, the church becomes pointless. In order for any church to be effective for the Gospel, God's people must have clear direction and vision of their purpose. The purpose of this booklet is to broadly describe and define the biblical direction, purpose, and vision of First Baptist Church of Sedalia. Our goal is to help every church member know our church's purpose, and how each individual member fits and can serve within this vision.

Our vision doesn't come from secular wisdom or methodology but rather from prayerful study and consideration of the Word of God.

Since FBC Sedalia is a local expression of Christ's bride, Jesus alone is the sovereign authority over this church. Therefore, our vision and purpose come solely from Jesus through His Word. Our goal for this booklet and for our church is to humbly submit to God's Word and to actively obey His commands for our church.

In this booklet you'll notice the repeated theme of our Mission Statement : ***Serious about Truth; Serious about People***. This comes from Jesus' teaching in Matthew 22:37-40 that the two greatest commandments are to

fully love God, which motivates full love for others. Everything that we say and do comes from our desire to be serious about truth and people.

We desire for this booklet to stir the hearts of every church member to embrace a unified purpose of glorifying God through every aspect of church life.

Life is too short to focus on worldly distractions. We desire to care about what God cares about – His glory through the salvation of sinners. We challenge each member to prayerfully pursue being actively involved in God’s kingdom work in this church.

We also desire for this booklet to clearly communicate our purpose to a watching world. FBC Sedalia exists for the praise and glory of God. We desire for our community to know the light and hope of Gospel truth.

God always works through the faithfulness of His people, and we believe where God is at work is exactly where we want to be. We desire to be a community of believers that loves God through His Word as evidenced by our love for others. We invite you to read this booklet carefully, prayerfully consider how God is leading you to be involved, and join us in God’s vision for FBC Sedalia in 2022 and beyond!

Mission Statement

“Serious about Truth; Serious about People”

A Mission Statement is meant to give clear and direct explanation of a shared purpose. While the entirety of Scripture would more accurately serve as our Mission Statement, we believe Jesus summarized the entirety of God’s calling upon His church in Matthew 22:37-39:

“And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Jesus was clear: following Christ means love for the Lord, which fuels love for others.



As a church, our mission must be equally as clear: biblical success means being serious about truth and serious about people.

By this statement we are emphasizing two fundamental principles:

Truth – Truth is an objective reality from a perfect and trustworthy authority. By saying we're serious about truth, we're affirming only God's words in Scripture are perfect, trustworthy, and completely authoritative (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Jesus claimed God's words are truth (John 17:17), that He alone is the truth leading to eternal life (John 14:6), and that the truth of God's Word will give eternal freedom (John 8:31-32). Thus, we desire for everything we think, say, and do to be informed and marked by the perfect and authoritative truth from God's Word. We are to be people who study the truth of God's Word and seek to live out that truth in all that we do.



People – Because we desire to obey the truth of God's Word, we are constrained to selflessly care, serve, and love other people. Jesus claimed evidence of being His disciple was loving one another (John 13:35), and loving others is a sign of spiritual life (1 John 2:10).

We desire to faithfully, continually, and sacrificially love first those we've covenanted with at FBC Sedalia. By first loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, we're able to selflessly love our community and demonstrate

Christ's love to a watching world. If we are known by our fruits (Matthew 7:15-20), then we affirm as a body of believers our Mission Statement of seriously engaging and proclaiming truth for the edification and salvation of others.

Love one
♥ ANOTHER ♥
as I have
LOVED
you
-JOHN 15:12



The greatest learning in life is theology, the study of both the character and words of God. In a practical sense, **Theology** is the knowledge of how God impacts and changes a person's heart and affections to the Lord. A person's understanding and belief of God shapes every aspect of their life. At FBC Sedalia our greatest pursuit is the glory of God through faithful teaching, proclamation, and training in biblical theology. In-depth study of biblical theology teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains God's people in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

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2 Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Therefore, everything we do as a church is for the purpose of studying God, knowing Him better, and is an outpouring result of studying and loving God’s Word. We desire for everything taught in our church to be directly informed, motivated, and shaped by the Word of God. As God’s redeemed people, our highest goal is to know God more intimately and to be made more into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

We believe God’s Word sufficiently speaks to every aspect of life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and we are wholly committed to fidelity to Scripture, humble submission to God’s Word, and faithfulness in all areas of biblical theology.

Biblical Worship

Worship is basic to humanity. Each person is naturally born with an innate desire and ability to worship. God gave humans the natural desire to worship because we are made to worship our Creator and Savior. The essence of sin is a desire to worship, submit to, and serve anything other than the one true God.



Therefore, God calls His people to faithful worship as informed through His Word. God's desire for pure worship is obvious throughout the Old Testament when God gave direct commands for Israel's worship. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills the Law (Matthew 5:17), giving freedom in worship. Instead of describing specific styles of worship, Scripture calls for worship to be a biblically informed outpouring of a deep and abiding affection for the Lord. The Holy Spirit works through our emotions and His Word to motivate worship.

Therefore, **Biblical worship** is to be the regular corporate acts of glorifying the Lord through the preaching of the Word, submission through prayer, and praising of His name.

We believe biblical worship is to be led by godly Christians filled with truth in complete submission to God's sovereignty and Word. We are committed as a church to

John 4:24, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Romans 12:1, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."

Theology

engage in heartfelt, biblical worship for the praise and glory of God. We also commit to study God and His Word as the necessary fuel for our worship as a weekly foretaste of heaven.

Biblical Worship—Staff Unity

Unity is essential for the health and well-being of any church not only among the members, but especially among the leaders. When church leaders are one in conviction and united in direction, the church is able to faithfully move forward together. Scripture repeatedly affirms the necessity of church unity:

1 Corinthians 1:10, “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

Psalms 133:1, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”

Therefore, the church staff, in conjunction with lay deacon leadership, commit to make decisions in unity and provide biblical leadership for the church through love and biblical faithfulness.

Rather than pursuing personal preferences or maintaining traditions, the church staff, united as one, will continually evaluate the direction of our church.

We firmly believe that leaders who are united in biblical faithfulness will positively impact biblical worship for the entire church. When those leading the church are biblically clear in priorities and direction, so too will the church. As the church staff and deacons live out and model unity in the Gospel, we believe that the Lord will be glorified by a committed and unified church.

Biblical Worship—Prioritizing Preaching

Biblical worship depends on an accurate understanding of biblical theology. The primary means for teaching biblical truth is through the weekly proclamation of God's Word. Nothing is more pivotal to the health and spiritual growth of a church than its commitment to the faithful proclamation of biblical truth.



Acts 6:4, “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Theology

Acts 10:42, “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”

Acts 28:31, “Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.”

The first church clearly prioritized the preaching of God’s Word more than any other ministry.

Therefore, in 2022 and going forward we will prioritize preaching as the primary means of theological education and growth for our church.

We commit as a church:

- ♦ To biblically engage with sermon texts for ourselves (like the Bereans, Acts 17:11)
- ♦ To humbly submit ourselves to the preaching of God’s Word
- ♦ To faithfully support the ministry of the Word

Sunday School

Every biblically-faithful church prioritizes teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While the primary means of theological education comes from preaching, additional teaching is required in various capacities throughout the church. A core ministry of theological education is Sunday School. Sunday School is intended to be an hour of intentional study of Scripture. Scripture prioritizes nothing else more than the faithful teaching of God's Word within the body of Christ.

1 Timothy 6:18-19, "Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."

2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

Therefore, we commit our Sunday School classes to be places where biblical teaching and spiritual growth is prioritized above all. Rather than focusing on fellowship or idle talk, we devote our time to be profitable for the spiritual growth of each attendee.

Theology

Further, as our Sunday School classes continue theologically training our members, they will begin to engage biblical topics and books for deeper theological instruction. We firmly believe that creating an environment of positive engagement regarding difficult theological issues will sharpen our members in God's Word (Proverbs 27:17). As we commit to continued theological education, we commit to providing the clearest, purest, and truest biblical instruction for the spiritual growth of God's people.

Sunday School—Teacher Training

A healthy church must have a plethora of biblically minded and doctrinally sound teachers. The pastors cannot (and should not) carry the entire load of theological teaching and instruction within the church. Rather, God's people are to be led in theological education when appropriate by faithful lay leaders. Sunday School provides an optimal opportunity for lay leaders to positively teach our members deep doctrinal truths.

To be adequately prepared for this weighty task, we commit ourselves to theologically invest in each Sunday School teacher by providing sound, doctrinal training. As Jesus invested in a small group of disciples who could in turn invest in others, so too will we invest in training Sunday School teachers to invest and train others.

James 3:1, “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”

Ephesians 4:11-15, “And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”

Understanding the great responsibility of theological education through teaching Sunday School, we commit to aid, assist, and train up Sunday School teachers to be adequately equipped for teaching theological education.

Sunday School—Theological Training

Every Christian ought to pursue greater biblical understanding and spiritual growth through God's Word. Offering an environment where theological education is accessible for people of all ages and various levels of theological growth is paramount. As a church, we are committed to facilitating opportunities for all people to grow in their faith through small class size settings. Our Sunday School classes are meant to challenge, strengthen, encourage, and grow Christians in their faith and provide Gospel opportunities for unbelievers.

2 Peter 3:18, "but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Colossians 1:10-12, "so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light."

We commit to prioritizing Sunday School and encouraging all members to actively participate in our Sunday

School ministry. Understanding that spiritual growth often occurs in the context of the local church, we will pursue greater doctrinal clarity in Sunday School and position Sunday School classes as a necessary tool for spiritual growth in our church membership.

Theological Institute

Without biblical truth, churches are merely centers for good, moral conduct. Biblically accurate understandings of God (theology) fuels every facet of life and ministry for the church. Our theology will always drive what we practically commit ourselves to.



In this light, we want to provide all means of theological training and education for our church members. Christ called His church to faithfully be His disciple, which means first and foremost adequately knowing our Savior. To this end, we will provide different times and training styles for our church members. Our theological institute will include everything from Bible Studies to theologically rigorous training. Our theology, biblical truth, will always drive our practical commitments.

Titus 2:1, “But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”

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2 Timothy 4:2-4, "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths."

We are a church committed to theological training. Our church leaders commit to the hard work of providing biblically sound and consistent teaching and training, while our church members commit to learning and growing through our theological institute. As our theological understanding and spiritual needs grow as a church, so too will our theological institute. Our theological institute exists to grow believers in biblical truth.



Theological Institute—Bible Studies

One of God's sweetest gifts to His people is the encouragement and admonition of fellow believers. Scripture calls believers to spur one another to godliness, which is a natural bi-product of Bible studies. When God's people join together for the intentional purpose of faithfully studying God's Word, the Lord blesses with spiritual growth.

1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Therefore, we commit to providing multiple Bible studies throughout the week for adults to seriously engage God's Word. These Bible studies seek to be theological, biblical, and practically applicable to daily life. We as a church commit to seriously engage God's Word in our personal lives and in community with one another.

Theology

As Christians study and grow together in God's Word, so too does the church grow in the Lord.

We desire to be a church that trains up leaders who are willing and able to teach Bible studies and to be a church yearning for deeper engagement in the Word of God.



Theological Institute—Thinking Theologically

Christianity is a thinking man's religion. Believers are called to be always thinking deeply and to be always thinking. Though Christianity requires the faith of a child in the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the theological waters of Scripture are rich with truths we will spend eternity exploring. Therefore, we desire to pursue opportunities to dive deeply into the rich theological

truths of Scripture through Thinking Theologically. In 2022 we continue a commitment to meet on a recurring evening to consider, explore, and study truths of Scripture that require deep, theological thought.

Romans 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Hebrews 5:12-14, “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

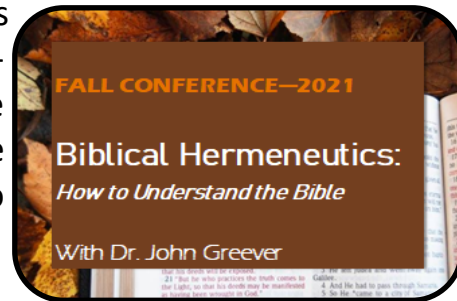
1 Corinthians 14:20, “Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature.”

Theology

Therefore, we commit to willingly dive into the rich doctrinal truths of God's Word through intentional study. We desire to think theologically and to theologically think. The more we understand about God and His works, the more our hearts' affections will be drawn to God and the pursuit of His glory.

Information Circulation

Vital for the health and spiritual success of a church is the spreading of accurate information. As a means of circulating theological information outside of the weekly rhythm of training and worship, we will provide various alternative means to communicate theological truths. Included in this section will be a theologically furnished Resource Library, consistent Bible reading plans, and two yearly conferences.



Our goal will be to host two conferences per year both for our church and the community. One conference will focus primarily on a theological truth while the other conference will focus primarily on practical outworkings of truth. By keeping both theology and practice in view, these conferences will seek to demonstrate how theology drives what we say and do.

Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

Therefore, we commit ourselves to devoting energy and resources to additional and varied means of circulating theological information. We desire to grow in theological and practical conferences, faithfully read Scripture, and grow through theological resources available at our church.

Information Circulation—Resource Library

The church is called to be an education center. The most profound training in a person’s life must come from the place of the greatest spiritual growth – the church. Therefore, we believe the church ought to invest itself in providing the greatest theological resources for its members. Offering theological resources for individual study and growth will deepen our members’ personal understanding of God’s Word.

Acts 17:11, “Now these people were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

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Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.”

Therefore, we commit to incrementally supplying the church library to become a Resource Library of theological education.

The goal of our Resource Library will be primarily to provide biblically rich resources that are doctrinally sound and edifying for spiritual growth.

We commit to stocking the Resource Library with various biblical literature as well as promoting theological resources. More than entertainment, we desire for our Resource Library to be a utilized resource regularly made use of by church members in personal theological study.

Information Circulation—Bible Reading

A successful church is one constantly in love with God’s Word. The clearest evidence of a love for Scripture is regularly reading God’s Word. God’s people



are called to personally invest in reading, meditating, memorizing, engaging, and seeking to understand Scripture. More than cold obedience, Bible reading involves heart-felt engagement with God's letter to His people. The health of a church is directly tied to the intimate Bible study and private prayer lives of individual believers.

Psalm 19:7-10, "The Law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."

Psalm 119:72, "The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces."

Therefore, we commit as a church to individually spend substantive time in God's Word.

We desire for our families to read God's Word together and to encourage one another through Scripture.

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We will provide year-long and monthly reading plans as well as periodic Bible study resources and devotionals to help facilitate biblical engagement.

As individual Christians prioritize God's Word, so too will the church grow through the truths and blessings of God's Word.



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Theology is essential in the Christian life but is not the totality of the Christian life. Theology alone can lead to puffed-up, cold intellectualism. Christ calls His church to know about Him – theology – and to follow, submit, and become like Him – Discipleship.

The idea of discipleship is two-fold:

- 1. Personally following Christ**
- 2. Helping others in their pursuit to follow Christ**

Therefore, biblical discipleship is a Christ-follower in truth helping another Christ-follower with and through truth. Especially in the local church, Christ has called believers to actively engage one another to help in the pursuit of faithfully following the Lord. Biblical discipleship occurs when Christians actively walk alongside one another providing help, biblical wisdom, rebuke, encouragement, and love through the Christian journey.

Discipleship

Scripture often describes discipleship in terms of being in relation to one another.

John 8:31-32, "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"

Titus 2:3-4, "Older women...so that they may encourage the young women."

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Hebrews 3:13, "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

Therefore, we commit to:

1. Personally growing in truth as a disciple of Christ
2. Selflessly seeking out other Christ-followers to encourage with truth
3. Joyfully accepting discipleship from godly and mature believers

We desire to be a church that continually spurs one another to the Lord in truth.



Corporate Unity

Scripture makes clear that the unity of God's church is a nonnegotiable. The body of Christ by necessity must be unified. However, unity is not the goal but the result of a natural outpouring, a shared, collective, biblical vision. When Christians mutually pursue God's glory together, unity is the result. As a local body of believers, we are called to the highest pursuit of godliness which brings unity among believers.

...be of the same mind...

1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Romans 15:5-6, "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

As a church, we commit to unite in the truth above all else. We are bound together by the greatest bond in this life – God’s constraining love. Therefore, since our desire is to be unified in truth, we equally desire for membership to matter.

Membership in the body of Christ brings wonderful blessings and privileges of grace, and weak understandings or implementations of church membership leads to weak unity in the church. We commit to gathering around the truth as the body of Christ, laying down our preferences and personal desires for the sake of unity and the glory of God.

Corporate Unity— Membership Matters

One of the easiest ways to measure a church’s healthiness is to assess their understanding and application of church membership. Without intentional church membership, the commands of Scripture become individualistic, lacking any real calling.

The elders and deacons are commanded to oversee and serve their flock (indicating a specific group); Christians



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are called to submit to their leaders and to live in specific relationship with other people (demonstrated in the local church); and, the church is called to practice church discipline for the purity of Christ's bride (exercised only for those in active relationship with the local church).

Maintaining that church membership matters is a catalyst for any church to move forward. The community of believers in the local church is meant to be the nucleus of God's sanctifying grace upon His people. Church membership is both a blessing of grace upon oneself through others and a blessing of grace to others.

Acts 20:28, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

Hebrews 10:24-25, "and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

Hebrews 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account..."

Therefore, we commit to highly prioritizing church membership through preaching, church membership classes, membership resources, and frequent teaching on church membership's significance. We also commit to ensuring to the best of our ability the integrity of our membership rolls to accurately reflect those participating in local kingdom work at FBC Sedalia.

Corporate Unity—Unified Worship

Along with a biblical understanding of church membership, worshipping alongside one another builds unity. Hearing the same Word proclaimed, hearing others sing praises to the Lord, and seeing the entirety of the church membership localized to one worship service all lead to biblical unity. Being unified in worship helps prevent temptations for preferences or avoidance of people in the church. A unified worship service leads to a greater sense of togetherness for the cause of Christ.



Psalm 133:1, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”

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Philippians 2:1-4, "Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Therefore, we committed to a single unified worship service and accomplished this goal in September of 2021.

Our desire in unifying worship is solely for the sake of building unity among our church for the glory of God.

As a unified body of Christ we are moving forward to a brighter future as FBC Sedalia. We are committed to obediently follow whatever God requires of us to be effective followers of Christ for God's kingdom.

Men's Ministry

Every Christian has equal value in the eyes of God and importance in the church. Since God has given different and specific roles to men and women in the church, it is vital for a healthy church to understand, teach, and train both men and women in their God-given commands for biblical faithfulness. For men specifically, where the leadership of men goes, so too goes the church. God created men with a craving for adventure, and we believe the greatest adventure in this life is progressively becoming more like Christ. Called to lead both the home and the church to Christ, Men's Ministry is the vital work of teaching, training, and investing in men to be leaders in and through the Gospel.



1 Corinthians 11:3, “But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 16:13-14, “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

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1 Peter 3:7, “You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

Therefore, we commit to invest in the men of our church with biblical truth. We desire for our men to intentionally disciple one another, demonstrating biblical faithfulness both through teaching and example. Men’s Ministry will provide fellowship, opportunities to serve, and biblical encouragement to men as they grow in the Lord.

Men’s Ministry—Leadership Investment

People live and act according to their greatest desires. In order for men to become leaders in the church as God intended, hearts and affections must shift away from self-motivated desires to God’s commands. Because men have been

given a unique role of leadership in the church, every healthy church must invest in training and building up



men commissioned by God for His service. This investment comes not only through theological preaching and teaching, but especially through intentional discipleship. Spiritually mature men create leaders by investing in spiritually maturing men through conversations, rebuke, and encouragement. Thus, spiritually mature men set a godly example for the rest of the church by leading the entire body of believers closer to the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:1-2, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also.”

Therefore, we are going to intentionally invest in the men of the church for the purpose of training up spiritual leaders in the faith. We accomplish this through one-on-one discipleship relationships, teaching and training specifically for men, offering fellowship

and accountability, and providing opportunities for spiritually growing men to take on leadership responsibilities in the church. Through investing in spiritually maturing men, the church will spiritually mature as well.



Discipleship

Men's Ministry—Biblical Training

Leadership comes from God. Men were created to be changed by the grace of God and to lead others in grace and truth. God made men to be challenged and strengthened through Scripture. Therefore, training and investing in the next generation leaders of the church happens primarily in the context of biblical training. While our Men's Ministry will actively engage in a variety of fellowship and recreational activities, our primary purpose will be to provide regular training in biblical truth. Biblical discipleship will provide encouragement and growth for men of all stages in life. Biblical training will involve continual emphasis on the Word of God to spiritually sharpen one another.

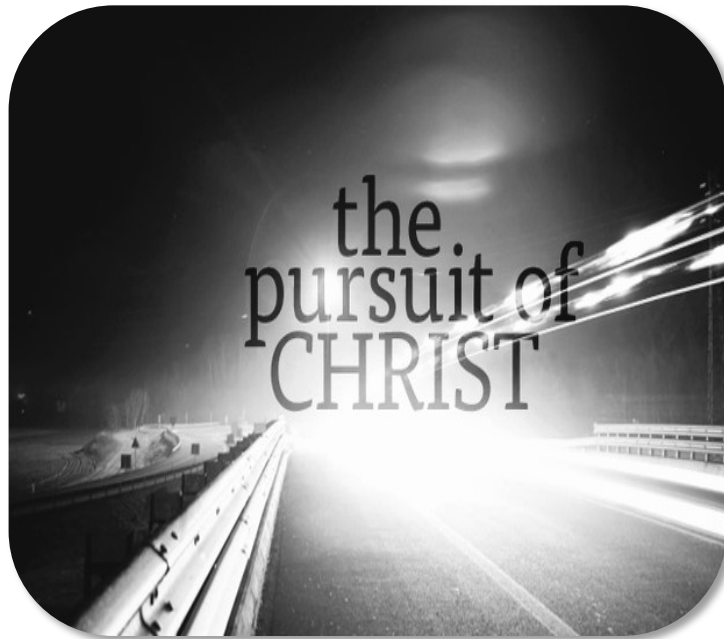


Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

1 Timothy 4:15-16, "Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."

We commit to challenging our men with biblical truth. Because lasting spiritual growth occurs when hearts are captivated by God's Word, we will focus and prioritize truth through Bible studies, events, and retreats.

By men pushing one another towards Christ and pursuing biblical faithfulness together, our church will likewise be led in grace and truth.



Discipleship

Women's Ministry

While discipleship must occur in our church, the greatest work of discipleship often occurs in relationships of mutual understanding. Women's Ministry, (Women's Enrichment) is an intentional effort to grow women spiritually in biblical truth, service, and fellowship. We want to invest in women to biblically lead in truth. A necessary mark of a healthy church is women embracing God's calling, growing in biblical wisdom, and serving through the Gospel.



Proverbs 31:30, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."

Titus 2:3-5, "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."

Therefore, we commit to invest in women with biblical truth. Spiritually mature women will intentionally disciple spiritually maturing women. We believe providing care, rebuke, love, and encouragement to women through the Gospel is vital for the health of our church. Under the supervision of church leadership, our Women's Ministry will seek to be a source of light, kindness, hospitality, and examples of godliness to all women.

Women's Ministry—Gospel Training

Every Christian role is shaped by the Gospel. Whether male or female, modeling and reflecting Christ is our goal. Our Women's Ministry seeks to teach Scriptural truths of godliness and biblical femininity. Demonstrating how the Gospel shapes God's calling upon women provides purpose and effectiveness for ministry. The most important function of Women's Enrichment ministry is Gospel teaching and training to the women of our church and in the community. Focusing on truth fuels both service and fellowship.



Discipleship

2 Timothy 1:5, 7, “For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well...For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

Women’s Enrichment desires to prioritize Gospel teaching and training as the center of our purpose. We desire to grow in the Gospel through Bible studies, conferences, and intentional one-on-one discipleship. By helping point one another to Christ, our church will become unified in mutual love for one another and desire for truth.



Women's Ministry—Service & Hospitality

Love for Scripture always leads to tangible action. The purpose of studying Scripture is to be used by God for His purposes of ministering to others with the Gospel. God calls all Christians to evidence the Gospel through service and hospitality. Serving others for Christ is an important expression of the Gospel in action. In His perfect design, God has uniquely gifted women to model Christ-like service and hospitality. Our Women's Ministry seeks to demonstrate biblical truth by providing opportunities for women to grow in relationship with one another.



1 Peter 4:8-9, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint."



Discipleship

Therefore, Women's Enrichment commits to serving one another and demonstrating hospitality through fellowship events, retreats, conferences, widow and homebound visits, and community service projects. We desire to live out our Gospel mandate by welcoming women into our lives and discipling through truth. We also desire to demonstrate service and hospitality to one another and to lead by example to the entire church. By serving Christians in love, our church will become unified in truth and Godliness.

Family Ministry

God created the nuclear family to be a dim, earthly reflection of the beautiful reality of God's eternal family. The covenant of marriage images Christ's covenant relationship with His bride, the church, while parental love and discipline images the Father's relationship to His adopted children. Though family units are often broken in a fallen world, God can work redemptively in any family for His glory. Because of the family's importance in God's overall design, we will prioritize teaching and serving everyone in the family from grandparents, parents, teenagers, and children.



Acts 16:31, "They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"

Colossians 3:18-21, “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.”

Therefore, we commit to teaching, training, and serving every member of the family from the oldest to the youngest. We believe reaching the family unit with the Gospel is essential for the strength and health of our church and community. We will cherish and welcome all families, seeking to minister to them with the good news of hope in Jesus Christ through classes, events, resources, and spiritual sponsors.

Family Ministry—Serious about Children

We live in a culture constantly vying for the young hearts, minds, and affections of all children. The church’s mission must include an active Gospel pursuit of children’s hearts. More than entertaining or sharing Bible studies, our children’s department teaches Gospel truths through age appropriate lessons. We believe God’s



Discipleship

command of ministering to children necessarily includes prioritizing and enforcing protocols and guidelines for the safety of all children.

Our mission for our children's department is simple: *Guiding children to learn, believe, accept, and share God's word.*

Understanding that children are the next generation of church leaders, we will take special care to teach children the eternal truths of God and provide Gospel resources for parents as well.

Matthew 19:14, "But Jesus said, 'Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

We are serious about reaching children with the Gospel in a warm, safe environment through the nursery, classes, and various ministries (see Evangelism section). We are devoted to ministering to parents and children of all ages with Gospel truth.

Family Ministry—Serious about Youth

Teenagers especially are bombarded daily with competing voices contending for their hearts' desires. As a result, many teenagers struggle to find purpose, meaning, and genuine truth. We believe the answer for youth is the truth found only in Christ.

Our vision is to see teenagers living as transformed followers of Jesus Christ, passionately committed to loving others, and serving actively in the Church.

We strive to accomplish this through equipping youth to walk in truth, to live out an authentic life of ministry and worship, to fully love God and others, and to always live on mission for the Gospel.



Romans 12:9, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good."

Discipleship

1 Timothy 4:12, “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

Therefore, we are committed to teaching teenagers truth and walking through life with them. We prioritize safety and intentional discipleship relationships. We believe teenagers must be actively included in the broader mission and purpose of the church. We desire to genuinely reach teenagers with the Gospel so that their Christian faith continues beyond high school graduation. We will utilize service projects, fellowships, and various events to engage youth for the sake of growing them in biblical faith and truth.

Small Groups

Spiritual growth happens primarily in the confines of intentional relationships in the body of Christ. While gathering weekly to worship is our primary means of spiritual growth, it can be easy for members to refrain from being actively engaged with other Christians on intimate



and personal levels. Christians need intentional relationships for spiritual growth and accountability. The first church in Acts met weekly for public worship and also met periodically in homes for further discipleship growth.

Acts 5:42, “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Acts 20:20, “how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house.”

Therefore, we are committed to continuing our small groups which provide opportunities for individual discipleship relationships and genuine fellowship. Since these small groups meet in people’s homes, our members can demonstrate and grow in hospitality, service, and spiritual maturity.

We believe engaging one another with the Gospel outside of our church building encourages and facilitates genuine spiritual growth among our members. We commit ourselves to growing in the Word as we continue to pursue personalized discipleship growth in our Small Groups.

Discipleship

Small Groups—Discipleship

Since discipleship is a key component of a healthy church, our church is committed to pursuing intentional discipleship opportunities. Small Groups in homes provide logical opportunities to more deeply



know one another than just Sunday worship. Small Groups give an opportunity for spiritually mature believers to know the hearts of other believers and to help them grow more into the image of Christ.

Small Groups allow for vulnerability, accountability, intentional prayer, and encouragement in the faith.

Galatians 6:1-2, “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

Therefore, we commit to discipling one another for the sake of one another's spiritual growth. We desire to invest in our brothers and sisters in Christ for the sake of the Gospel. By individually engaging one another with the Gospel, our church as a whole will continue to grow spiritually for the glory of God.

Small Groups—Hospitality

Scripture repeatedly describes hospitality as an evidence of spiritual maturity and growth. Biblical hospitality is treating others as more important than oneself, desiring to serve others for their good. Small Groups offer



opportunities for Christians to serve others by opening up their homes and their lives to one another. Hospitality is the heart's posture to serving others for the sake of making the Gospel known.

Hebrews 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

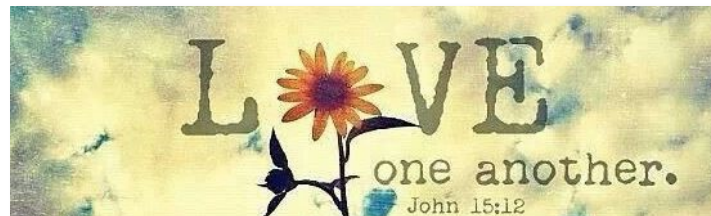
Romans 12:13, "...contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

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1 Peter 4:9, “Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”



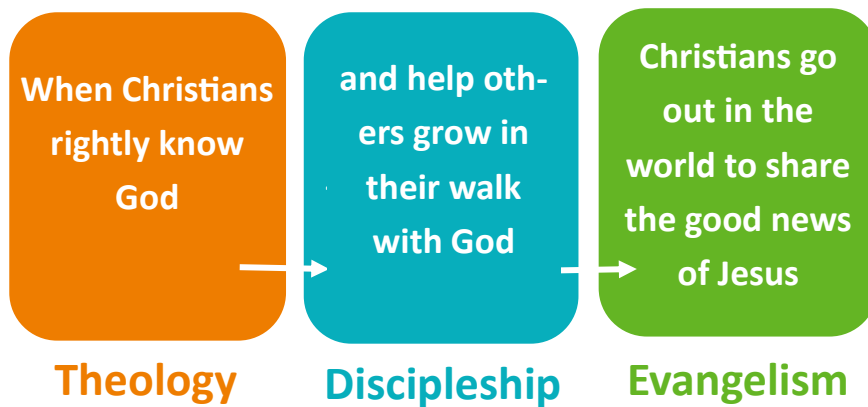
Therefore, we commit to continue seeking discipleship and evangelistic opportunities through the means of hospitality in Small Groups. We desire to prioritize others as more important than ourselves and to be known for our selfless service. We want to be hospitable so that others might see Christ.



Evangelism



Along with Theology and Discipleship, Evangelism is the third main emphasis of a healthy church.



Evangelism is focusing and proclaiming first and foremost the “evangel,” the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. More than being kind or inviting people to church, evangelism is living out a Gospel-filled life while speaking Gospel truth faithfully.

Evangelism

Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

We desire to be a church that naturally engages in evangelistic proclamation as a regular motion of our lives. Through practical means of counseling those hurting in our community, engaging in intentional missions, and meeting physical needs of those around us,



we commit ourselves to actively loving others with the Gospel.

As the Gospel informs and motivates the church, we will consistently work for the good of others to know Jesus Christ in salvation. We will be a church that in love speaks the truth of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

Biblical Counseling Center

The most profound impact we can have on our community is tangibly demonstrating the Gospel light and hope into the spiritual darkness of the world. The Bible alone offers the hope and truth this world so desperately craves. In the context of believers, Biblical Counseling is intensive discipleship – helping a fellow Christian through Scripture grow in biblical faith. At the

same time, Biblical Counseling is an evangelistic and outreach tool to minister to the hurting, raw needs of the community. Comprised of church members who have studied Scripture and have been trained in biblical application, our Biblical Counseling Center will function as the primary means of proclaiming the Gospel directly into people's lives.

Romans 15:4, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Ephesians 4:15, "...but speaking the truth in love..."

We commit to moving our church in the direction of sufficiently meeting the emotional, relational, and spiritual needs of our community. We recognize that the job of knowing Scripture and applying it to all areas of life is upon every Christian, not just church elders. We commit ourselves to applying Scriptural truth both to our own lives and to those in our community. We commit to continue with biblical counseling training and when appropriate, make plans to establish a counseling center. We desire to see our community changed from darkness into light and be given true hope that comes only through knowing and submitting to Jesus Christ.



Evangelism

Biblical Counseling Center—Teaching

Relationships are successful only when one person can trust the other. The same is true with Scripture: Christians must be completely convinced that God's Word addresses, speaks to, and sufficiently provides all necessary instruction for every aspect of life.



When Christians completely trust the sufficiency of Scripture, they become useful to help others the way God intended.

Thus, a healthy church teaches the perfection of Scripture along with the complete sufficiency of Scripture. When a church commits to believing, following, and applying Scripture to all of life, lives will be changed both in and out of the church.

2 Peter 1:3, “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

Therefore, we commit to teaching the necessary and relevant doctrines of Scripture including the following:

- **Inspiration** (how the Bible came into being)
- **Inerrancy** (the Bible contains no errors)
- **Perspicuity** (the Bible can clearly be understood)
- **Sufficiency** (Scripture is all we need)

Before Biblical Counseling can begin, God's people must be committed to the truths of God's Word as the full authority over all of life. We desire to evangelistically help others in their time of need and to accomplish this faithfully and effectively, we commit to fervently studying all of God's Word. Through sermons, classes, and resources, we will grow in our knowledge, commitment, and love for God's Word and its perfect result in God's people.

Biblical Counseling Center—Training

Once Christians are convinced and committed to God's Word as the sole authority over life, training is necessary to effectively apply Scripture to every area of life. Biblical Counseling requires more than mere proof-texting (giving a verse in response to a problem). Biblical Counseling uses Scripture to pursue a person's heart desires, affections, identity, idols, and values. With training of how to apply biblical theology to the specific needs and situations of



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a person, our members will progressively learn how to counsel others in God's Word.

Through a process of discerning those whom God is leading to the task of Biblical Counseling, we will provide training in Biblical Counseling for believers to be used by God to help others.

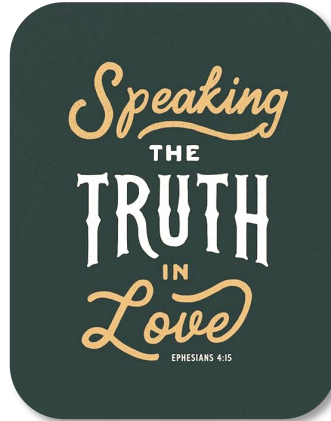
2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

These classes will be for the purpose of equipping Christians for the task of counseling, leading to the eventual opening of a Biblical Counseling Center to minister to church members and community members alike. By teaching the sufficiency of Scripture and training the direct applications of biblical theology, our church will effectively reach the community with Gospel hope that will positively change lives.



Effective Communication

Like any healthy marriage, effective communication is necessary for the health of any church. Breakdowns in communication often result in thinking selfishly and failing to consider another's perspective. At FBC Sedalia, we want to be open, honest, and genuine about who we are as a church, our overall purpose, and the direction we're heading.



In this light, we desire to effectively communicate with one another both in personal relationships and in conveying who we are as a church, what we believe, and why we do what we do.

We desire to be a church that speaks kindly to and about one another, prioritizes the eternal state of souls over getting our way, and has a heavenly perspective in all things.

James 1:19, "...but everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger."

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Ephesians 4:29, “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

Colossians 4:6, “Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”

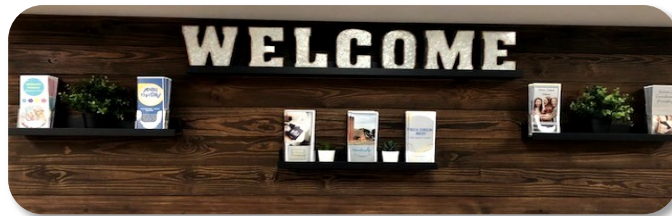
In 2021, we committed to making information readily available to members and visitors alike. We accomplished this goal by establishing a Welcome Center, which better communicates to visitors and prospective members the details and direction of our church.

We also envisioned a Resource Center, which provides practical resources primarily to our members for life questions and situations. By better communication to one another in individual relationships and as a church as a whole, helps keep the focus and perspective on knowing God and seeking to obey Him.

Effective Communication—Welcome Center

Welcome Centers are intended to give a brief depiction and taste of the church. Especially for first-time visitors, Welcome Centers provide a centralized location to quickly have questions answered and to obtain information about the church.

By maintaining an updated Welcome Center, our church is able to warmly welcome guests and answer questions they may have. Information available at the Welcome Center includes documents detailing church beliefs, flyers of various church ministries and upcoming events, information on the Gospel and Christianity, and welcome packets for first-time attenders. It is our desire to provide guests (especially unbelieving guests) with Gospel resources in hopes of having Gospel conversations.



Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

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In addition to being aesthetically pleasing, the Welcome Center is a central location of Gospel light that also provides clarity about our church. When we effectively communicate what the Gospel is, who we are, and where we're going, God will use our faithfulness to reach others with the Gospel.

Effective Communication—Resource Center

Whereas the Welcome Center is primarily a means for helping visitors and guests better understand the Gospel and our church, the Resource Center will primarily serve as a quick and effective means for resourcing our members with various literature. The purpose of the Resource Center will be to provide biblical and theological resources for continued study at home. These resources will include Biblical Counseling resources, various theological readings, Bible reading plans, historical creeds and confessions, practical pamphlets for various problems in life, and additional resources.



As a church, we are committed to filling our minds with truth. We desire to think thoughts after God's thoughts, which only comes from intentional study and growth in church and in the home. We commit to moving toward expanding our Resource Center. We desire to see Christians strengthened in the faith and for unbelievers to see the spiritual difference of Christians growing through biblical resources.

Intentional Missions

A church that takes God's Word seriously takes evangelism and missions seriously. Local and foreign missions are often accurate metrics for assessing the spiritual priorities of a church.



Dying churches focus inward; healthy churches focus outward.

We believe God's Word commands us as believers to personally grow in truth for the purpose of proclaiming Gospel light to the nations. We believe missions is an overflow of our praise to the Lord and an expression of our worship to Him.

**Psalm 96:3, "Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples."**

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Luke 24:47, “...and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

Therefore, we will seek to engage in focused and coordinated efforts to specific mission opportunities. Rather than viewing every need as a calling, we believe God calls us to serve in missions to the extent of our ability to be effective for the Gospel.



In addition to our financial offerings to missions through the Southern Baptist Convention, we will increase our efforts to provide opportunities for church members to actively engage in Gospel missions. By understanding that missions is an overflow and expression of worship to the Lord, our church will be able to successfully proclaim Gospel truth while meeting the needs of a lost world.

Intentional Missions—Local Evangelism

In Luke’s telling of the Great Commission in the book of Acts, Jesus calls the church to first engage in local mission efforts before spreading to foreign missions. Jesus’

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command is clear: evangelism and missions start in our communities. Christians are called to live on mission to those we see everyday before we seek to take the Gospel to the nations. The Great Commission thus constrains Christians to actively pursue Gospel opportunities in our own backyard. We are tasked with operating among the people who know us best to speak Gospel truth. If we're unable to speak Gospel truth in our own community, we should have little confidence



that we'll faithfully speak Gospel truth in foreign missions. Our "Jerusalem" is Sedalia, our "Judea" is Pettis County, and our "Samaria" is Missouri.

Acts 1:8, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Mark 16:15, "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

Therefore, we are committed to actively engage in missions here in Sedalia, Pettis County, and the surrounding areas. We will serve in practical ways to meet the physical needs of our community, but we will always

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pursue avenues for Gospel conversations. We believe that since missions is an overflow of our worship to the Lord, missions by necessity must include intentional Gospel focus. We commit to engage in every act of service and community betterment for the sake of the Gospel by unashamedly making Gospel truth known to our community.



Intentional Missions—Foreign Missions

Though the church is to engage in local missions first, the church is also called to actively pursue foreign missions. Local churches are called to impact foreign nations with the Gospel. Rather than just a select few who become foreign missionaries, the entire church is called to take up the responsibility of pursuing opportunities to partner for God's kingdom and to proclaim the Gospel.

Matthew 24:14, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 28:19-20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Therefore, we desire to build upon our local missions efforts by making strides toward foreign missions. We believe foreign missions is for the sole purpose of encouraging those already proclaiming the Gospel and engaging ourselves in Gospel proclamation.

We are committed to partnering with those already taking the Gospel to the nations and we continue to prayerfully assess our involvement for the sake of the Kingdom. By serving the Lord through foreign missions, we desire to see the nations praise and glorify the Lord by knowing, serving, and following Christ.

Community Care

As a component of local missions, an important aspect of evangelism is caring for our community through specific ministries. Maintaining consistent ministries in our church provides opportunities for community members to become acquainted with our church and to hear the Gospel. Our local ministries are intended to reach the hearts of children and adults alike with the Gospel while addressing emotional needs as well. Two of our

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church's current ministries seek to evangelize community members through Scripture memorization and Gospel conversations – *AWANA* and *MOMS CONNECT*. Each ministry is geared to care for both our church and community through Gospel clarity.

1 John 4:19, 21, "We love, because He first loved us. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

Romans 12:10, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor."

Therefore, we are committed to continuing, strengthening, and sharpening our current ministries that seek to care for our community. We believe church ministries are to be an evangelistic tool to reach our community for the Gospel. By demonstrating to our community that we care for their physical and spiritual well-being, God will open doors for Gospel conversation leading to changed lives.



Community Care—AWANA

An important aspect of evangelism is reaching children with the Gospel. Our church actively seeks to engage children both from our church and the community



with Scripture through the AWANA ministry. AWANA stands for “Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed” and the goal is to “reach kids, equip leaders, and change the world” through evangelism and discipleship. Our greatest purpose for AWANA is to teach children Scripture memorization so that the Bible will be hidden in their hearts. We incorporate games, food, and crafts into each lesson to teach children the meaning and value of Scripture.

2 Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Psalms 119:11, “Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.”

Because we care deeply for each generation to love God’s Word, we are committed to valuing and investing

Evangelism

in AWANA as a ministry to teach God's Word. Above all else, our AWANA teachers and volunteers will prioritize the memorization and teaching of Scripture.



We provide AWANA as an important ministry to the children of our community to teach the value and significance of Scripture.

Community Care—MOMS CONNECT

An important ministry to our community is providing opportunities for people to receive support during specific seasons or situations. MOMS CONNECT provides a place for all mothers of any aged children to receive support and encouragement from Scripture. Though parenting can often be difficult and trying, we believe the Gospel and Christian fellowship provide needed encouragement and purpose to parents in all stages of parenting.

Judges 5:7, "The peasantry ceased, they ceased in Israel, until I, Deborah, arose, until I arose, a mother in Israel."

By ministering to the mothers of our community, we're actively engaging families with the Gospel. Whether single or married, we believe reaching mothers through evangelistic efforts blesses the entire community. Therefore, we are committed to reaching our community through supporting mothers with the Gospel. We

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provide a safe and welcoming environment for women to engage one another with truth. Loving and supporting local mothers provide opportunities to evangelize our community with truth in the midst of spiritual darkness.



Gospel Outreach

Evangelism often occurs through the hard work of building and sustaining relationships while always pointing to Christ. But evangelism also must occur through community events. We understand that community events might provide our only engagement with a person and thus believe every event must be an outreach with the Gospel. We desire to not waste any opportunity to proclaim the goodness of Jesus Christ to whomever the Lord places in our path.



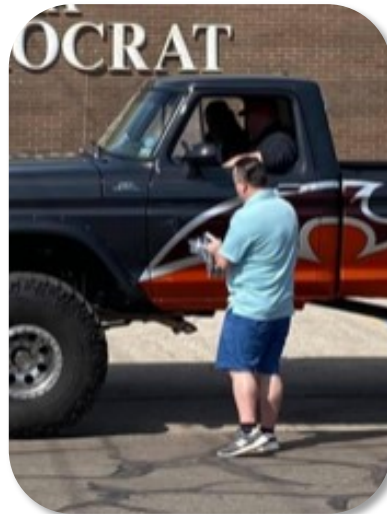
Evangelism

Acts 8:30-31, 35, “Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?’... Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

Therefore, we desire to utilize every opportunity for engaging our community with the Gospel. We desire for every community to know our purpose of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to be a church always known and marked by biblical faithfulness. We believe the greatest support we can give to our community is always to creatively, genuinely, and faithfully proclaim the Gospel.

Gospel Outreach—Community Events

One of the easiest temptations for churches is to actively do good things for communities without proclaiming the Gospel. Whereas giving away food and providing physical labor can be evidences of the Gospel, they’re certainly not the totality of evangelism. Evangelism means proclaiming the evangel (good news) of Jesus



Christ, which the church has primarily been tasked to accomplish. Unlike charitable organizations, the church seeks to meet physical needs for the express purpose of addressing a sinner's greatest need: his or her spiritual condition before a holy and just God.

Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

1 Peter 3:15, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Therefore, we strive to use community events such as parades, the State Fair, sporting events, and seasonal community events to proclaim the Gospel.



Whether through our events or the community's, we are committed that our involvement always engage others with the Gospel. We will love our community by giving them the greatest gift we have – the hope of the Gospel.

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Gospel Outreach—Meaningful Associations

Evangelism requires making our beliefs and purpose known to all. We believe we must make our purpose known in our own community and to others. In an effort to make our purpose known, we desire to have meaningful associations with other like-minded, Spirit-filled, Gospel-proclaiming people and organizations. God's kingdom is greater than our church, and being in active association with other believers helps us participate in God's larger kingdom work.

Titus 3:8, "This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."

Therefore, we desire to faithfully continue active involvement in:

- *Our local Baptist association*
(Harmony Baptist Association)
- *Our state convention*
(Missouri Baptist Convention)
- *Our denomination*
(Southern Baptist Convention)

Though we are not defined by these associations, they broadly express our beliefs and purpose. **Similarly, we desire to become associated with additional associations so that:**

- 1. We can actively take part in broader-reaching Gospel work.*
- 2. Believers new to our community might readily find our church.*

We believe God's vision for FBC Sedalia is first to those around us, but also to those around the world. We desire to be a church with no barriers or boundaries but actively, joyfully, and faithfully proclaim the Gospel for the glory of God.



Goals



Why Goals?

God alone produces growth in His church. God-given growth is often different from what we expect or desire. In a sense, church goals are arbitrary because only the Holy Spirit knows what will happen in Christ's church.

Romans 11:34; James 4:14, "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?" "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away."

However, God makes known through His Word His desires for the local church. We can better know God's goals for our church through knowing His Word.

1 Corinthians 2:16, “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Therefore, we desire to hold our goals loosely, understanding that God alone knows the future. We believe these goals come from biblical wisdom and are goals every biblical church must pursue. God alone knows what He will accomplish in His church, so our desire is to have biblical benchmarks which reflect God’s faithfulness through the years. Understanding that God is the one to will and to work (Philippians 2:13), our prayer is for the Lord to use our faithful obedience to produce Gospel growth for His glory and our good.

For God is working in you,
giving you the desire and
the power to do what
pleases him.

Philippians 2:13

Goals

Short-Term Goals

By the end of 2023, if the Lord wills, we pray to successfully accomplish:

- One unified worship service¹
- Theological training classes with committed church members growing in faith and doctrine
- Members share the Gospel with 150 people (average 50 a year)
- Invest in and send out one person for the ministry (pastorate, missionary, chaplain, etc.)²
- Provide 300 pamphlets/booklets of practical resources for church members
- Train and equip three spiritually capable Biblical Counselors³
- Open a Biblical Counseling Center with a recurring night for counseling
- Individually invite to church all who live within a half-mile radius of our church⁴
- Church membership accurately reflecting those actively involved⁵
- A robust small group ministry to better disciple church members⁶

¹September 17, 2021

²FBC partnership with Covenant Bible Theological Seminary—Fall 2021;
Timothy Ministerial Internship—February 2022

³Biblical Counseling Training, Year 1, began October 2021; 20 enrolled

⁴Two outreach events in 2021

⁵Process begun February 2022

⁶Small Groups began September 2021

Long-Term Goals

A lot can happen in five years. We are certain by the end of 2025, life will look significantly different for FBC Sedalia than it does today. Yet the uncertainty of tomorrow doesn't nullify the responsibility of wisely planning ahead.



James 4:14-15, "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.'"

Therefore, we hold these five-year goals loosely, understanding that the Holy Spirit is ultimately the one who will accomplish God's plan. God will likely give success in ways currently unknown to us and close doors we once anticipated would be open.

God's faithfulness is not dependent on His meeting or achieving our expectations. As we provide these benchmarks, we trust the Lord to work through us for His glory however He best sees fit. No matter how the Lord uses us to accomplish His will, we desire to be serious and committed to truth and to people.

Goals

By the end of 2025, if the Lord wills, we pray to successfully accomplish the following:

- *Reform Sunday School classes to be content-based (biblical, historical, and practical theology)*
- *Biblical church leadership: Elders and Deacons*
- *Practice Church Discipline for the sake of congregational purity*
- *Start and/or Invest in a Church Plant*
- *Significantly invest in a Church Revitalization*
- *Assess wisdom and viability of the church remaining in current physical location*
- *Designate space for Biblical Counseling in the church*
- *Five Biblical Counselors actively providing counsel to the church and community*
- *Church members fostering or adopting children*
- *Intentional ministry care to singles, parents with small children, and widows or those dealing with grief*

Looking Forward

In His grace, God has given FBC Sedalia a rich history filled with many fruitful years of ministry. While we praise the Lord for His faithfulness in the past, we are convinced the brightest days of ministry still lay ahead. We trust that God's Word will not return void and will accomplish through our obedience all the Lord pleases (Isaiah 55:11).

While the past informs the present, it doesn't determine the future. Therefore, we're more concerned with looking forward than we are looking to the past. We are convinced God has called us as a church to a weighty task that first begins by prayerfully engaging this vision and being obedient to what the Lord requires of us.



Goals

We understand any road worth taking will have a mixture of bumps and bruises, but we believe this is the path God has set before us. We believe God's Word is a sufficient lamp to our feet and light to our path, guiding us forward into the future He has for us (Psalm 119:105).

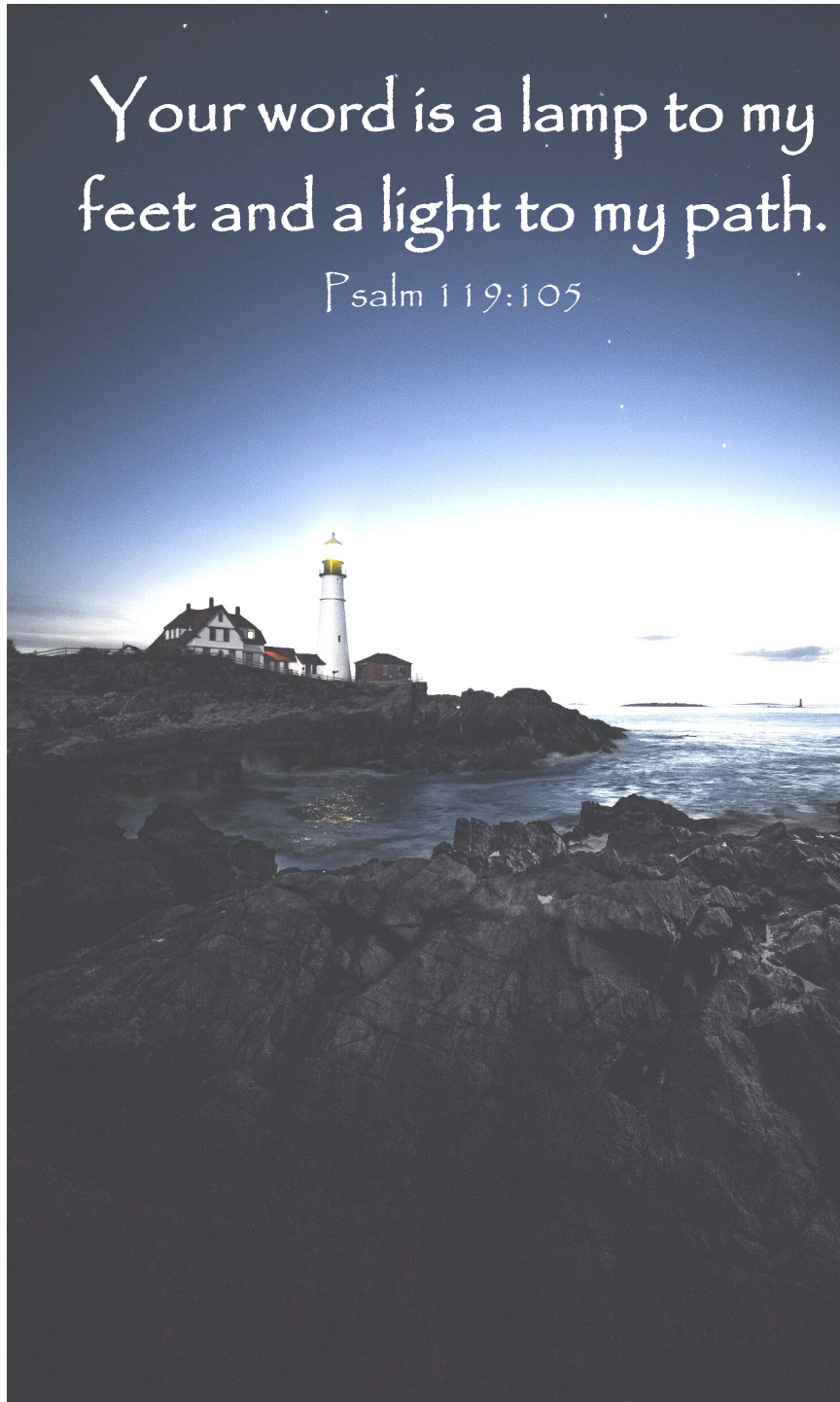
If your heart longs to see the Lord at work, then we invite you to joyfully join us in our pursuit of fruitful kingdom work. If God is stirring within you a desire to be part of this local Gospel work, we would love to prayerfully consider with you how God can and will use you for His glory.

First Baptist Church of Sedalia exists for the glory of God, and we believe He is on the move in our midst for His name to be glorified. We hope you'll join us as we serve the Lord by being ***serious about truth and serious about people.***

SOLI DEO GLORIA
for the glory of God alone

Your word is a lamp to my
feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105



Notes

[illegible]

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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