

Connecting With Community

Session 3 – G.R.O.W. – O = Outward Focus

1. Our goal is not to just go to church but to BE the Church

The technical definition of the Church is: Individuals who are called out of darkness (confusion, fear, doubt) into light (truth, purpose, confidence) and from a place that lacks purpose into a greater purpose that can only be achieved in community.

¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt. 28:19-20

1.1 God’s wants to have an ***ever-growing family***.

1.2 After God calls us into His family. Then He sends us back into the community to help ***bring others into*** His ever-growing family

We Must Share God’s Love in Both Words and Actions

- a. **WORD:** Sharing our faith and the gospel demonstrates that we care about other people both now and for eternity.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans 10:14

Goal 1 – O – Outward Focus - Share your story & God’s love with others. List people:

- b. **ACTION:** Community service meets people’s needs ***where they live***.

If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? James 2:16

Goal 2 – O – Outward Focus - Establish a time/place where you can serve in your community. This may be an organized activity or simply helping a neighbor.

1.3 When you come to church, it is the job of the church leaders to prepare you to do God's work, not only within the church building but also in the community you live.

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all **reach unity** in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the **fullness of Christ**.
Ephesians 4:11-13

1.4 The end goal of going to church is to become **more like Jesus**.

1.5 To be unified and mature means to **live and act** like Jesus.

1.6 Works of service means working to **meet people's needs** and **sharing the good news** of Jesus Christ with others, so they begin a personal relationship with Jesus.

2. The Church Exists to Connect People to God and Help Them

- a. By connecting with God, people can live out their **life purpose**.
- b. The Church exists to help people both **in the present** and **for eternity**.
- c. The Church exists to be a blessing to current church members, who then work to **bless others**.
- d. Sharing Bible knowledge without helping people can come across as uncaring or unloving and be a **barrier** to them connecting with God.
- e. Meeting people's physical needs but ignoring their spiritual needs can be beneficial in the present but have devastating **eternal** consequences.

Action Steps for Spiritual Fitness:

1. **Share your faith story** with those you listed and others. You can participate in the **Sharing Your Story** conversation held next Sunday at the same time as this class to help you share your faith journey with others.
2. Choose an area in your community where you can **serve** either one time or on an ongoing basis.
3. Come to church each week and **invite** those we are **servicing** and **sharing with**.