

Isaiah 45:18-19 -“For the Lord is God, and he created the heavens and earth and put everything in place. He made the world to be lived in, not to be a place of empty chaos. “I am the Lord,” he says, “and there is no other. I publicly proclaim bold promises. I do not whisper obscurities in some dark corner. I would not have told the people of Israel to seek me if I could not be found. I, the Lord, speak only what is true and declare only what is right.”

## REVIEW: WE ARE REAL LIFE

- Vision – We will reach the world for Jesus one person at a time
- Mission – We will make biblical disciples in relational environments
- Process – We will make disciples, who make disciples of Jesus – “The S, C, M, D Process”  
(Share – Connect – Minister – Disciple)

W1- Abide in Christ

W2- Reach the Lost

W3- Connect the Unconnected

W4- Chase the Strays

W5- Shepherd Toward Maturity

## LET'S GET STARTED

- Christ loves, chases, connects, pursues and challenges all of us
- As you hear the gospel, repent of sin, believe in your heart, and receive his grace, he comes into your life.
- Romans 12:1-2
- Be transformed
- We are led and shepherded toward becoming more like Christ
- Philippians 2:3-8
- Spiritual maturity is becoming more like Christ
- Learn to love God and others by obeying his commands (1 John 2:3-6)
- 1 John 4:20-21

## HOW DO WE BECOME MORE SPIRITUALLY MATURE?

- We look at the first church and how they modeled it for us
- Acts 2:42-47
- We grow through God's presence
- We grow through God's word
- We grow through God's people
- Ephesians 4:11-15

## STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Spiritually Dead (Ephesians 2:1-2)
- Born Again/Infant (John 3:3; 1 Peter 2:2)
- Child (1 Corinthians 13:11)
- Young Adult (Philippians 2:3-4)
- Parent (Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 28:19-20)

## WE HAVE A PART

- We can respond to the gospel and what God has done
- In light of the gospel, we can give our lives to Jesus
- We can live according to God's design and grow in spiritual maturity (Christ-likeness)
- We are ambassadors and shepherds
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

## CLOSE

- Do you need Jesus today?
- Do you see that He loves you?
- In light of all He has done, we can respond to Him and grow in Him.
- What is the next step for you today?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. How was your week, and how can we pray for you?
2. What stood out to you in this week's sermon?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-8
  - What do we learn about Christ in this passage?
  - What does it mean to have the same attitude as Christ?
  - Which of the examples listed is most difficult for you, and why?
4. Read Acts 2:42-47
  - What stands out to you in this passage?
  - Is it difficult for you follow God's design for spiritual maturity? Why or why not?
5. We are called to be both shepherded toward maturity and to shepherd others toward maturity. What is one step you can take to grow in those areas?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
  - What stands out to you in this passage?
  - Who can you shepherd toward Christ in this season?