

*DRAFT*

# **SHARPENING THE FOCUES OF GFC WEEKEND SERVICES**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

It is just one hour on Sunday, (or Saturday). Yet of all the hours in the week, the one in which the church gathers together for a common purpose and focus, can be, and should be one of the most engaging and life altering hours that we experience. At GFC, we take seriously the privilege and opportunity given to us by God to corporately meet together on a weekly basis. (Acts 2: 42; Hebrews 10:24-25)

It is our desire that the congregation of GFC understand as much of the philosophy behind our weekend services as possible and to know what to expect when they invite others. The following pages are offered by the elders, (our governing board) to assist in that understanding. This document also serves to provide guidelines and direction to those who plan and evaluate our services. While good theology under girds it, it is a practical paper for uses stated above.

The format identifies **THREE LENSES** through which our weekend services are viewed. The lenses are:

### **MISSION AND VISION**

### **PURPOSE AND FOCUS**

### **COMPONENTS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**Preaching**

**Music**

**Prayer**

**The Arts**

**Other**

While the broad purposes of our services are defined for us in Scripture, there is also much freedom when it comes to forms. There are many decisions that must be made regarding the forms used in a service. It is through a wise and prayerful use of these three lenses that these decisions are made at GFC.

**PLEASE NOTE:** No single principle or point stands alone in this paper. It is important that each part be understood as a part of the whole.

## THE THREE LENSES

### *LENS #1* GFC MISSION AND VISION

#### GFC MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission to glorify God by joining Him in  
**Building a Community to Reach a Community.**

#### GFC VISION STATEMENT

##### Building a Community . . .

It is our vision to be Building a Community of believers in Jesus Christ who are becoming . . .

*Spiritually Vital*  
*Biblically Grounded*  
*Relationally Healthy*  
*Personally Generous*  
*Socially Responsible*  
*Evangelistically Bold*

in order **to** . . .

##### Reach a Community . . .

Both locally and globally with the life-giving message of Jesus Christ by intentionally and compassionately engaging in *grace-motivated* GOOD WORKS and clearly and boldly sharing the *incomparable* GOOD NEWS.

## ***LENS #2* PURPOSE AND FOCUS**

**PURPOSE-** We gather together for the purpose of worshipping and glorifying God, giving expression to the believers heart of worship, and **building up of the community** of faith.

Our services are also public and serve as a bridge to **reaching our community**. The authentic worship of believers is a witness to the reality of God and the relevance of the gospel. We seek to engage those new in the faith, old in the faith, and outside the faith.

**FOCUS-** Our weekend services are designed with a view towards a healthy intergenerational experience for everyone, with a focus on:

- Engaging the current generation of young adults
- Encouraging future godly leadership in the home, church and community
- Reaching the major population of people in our surrounding community.

## ***LENS #3* COMPONENTS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### ***Overview***

Our weekend services are made up of a variety of elements prayerfully put together to accomplish our stated purpose. While a given service may have more of one than the other due to the primary purpose of that service, there are regular elements that are included.

Below are the primary service components and the principles that guide their use in the services.

### ***Preaching-* Communicating the living Word of God with clarity and passion**

Our preaching seeks to be

- *Biblical-* based upon a text
- *Expositional-* explained within a context
- *Practical-* applicable to life
- *Understandable-* terminology explained in every day language
- *Holistic-* capturing the full passion and heart of a text
- *Integrated* – flows together with all other elements of the service

***Music- Facilitating the expression of our heart of worship to our Creator and Redeemer***

Our music seeks to be

- *Edifying*- enlarging our view of God
- *Substantive* – containing depth and breadth
- *Diversified*- drawing from the past and the present.
- *Consistent* – in presentation, style (contemporary), and quality
- *Participatory* – singable/ familiar to most, while regularly teaching new songs
- *Integrated*-flows together with all other elements of the service.

***Prayer – Talking with and depending upon our Heavenly Father***

Our prayers seek to be

- *God-directed*- talking to God, not each other
- *Pastoral*- giving attention to the needs of people
- *Thoughtful*- fitting for the moment
- *Varied*- different people, different times
- *Integrated*- flows together with all other elements of the service

***The Arts – Expressing the wonder, beauty and truth of God through the use of God-given human creativity.***

Our use of the arts seeks to be

- *Purposeful*- contributing to the overall theme of the service
- *Diverse*- drama, video, graphics, lighting, painting, stories, dance, music, etc.
- *Engaging*-appealing to the whole person
- *Appropriate*-honoring what is good decent while dealing honestly with life.
- *Integrated*- flows together with all other elements of the service

**Other**

- Communion is served about every 4-6 weeks.
- Baptism is offered as needed.
- Other vital information regarding the ongoing ministry of GFC is communicated in a timely and creative way.
- Special services that celebrate God's unique work in our lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

While much could be said about this “one hour on Sunday” (and Saturday), the “bottom line” is that God always looks at the heart. Many times in both the Old and New Testament, God rejected the weekly gatherings of His people because their hearts were far from Him during the week. When they did come together, they did so with no real intention of worshipping and obeying Him.

It is our prayer that GFC will always seek after God in “spirit and in truth” (John 4: 24), and that the forms of our gatherings will never become the “issue” or overshadow our common purpose and personal pursuit of godliness.

As we continually sharpen the focus on our weekend services, it is our desire and prayer that the following outcomes will result for the glory of God.

- Humility and gratitude in response to the grace and greatness of God.
- Unity that is based on our common purpose and pre-occupation with God.
- The continual increase of people who are new to the faith.
- The continual increase of people who are being established in the faith.
- The engagement of all participants in intentional steps of growth beyond the services in the Six Dynamics of Balanced Christian Growth. (see Mission and Vision)