



WEEK TWO | CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Look Back

10 Minutes

- On September 8, we started a new sermon series, *On Mission* to explore FPC's mission, values, strategy, measures, and the vision for the future. Pastor Curtis preached on our unique calling based on Ephesians 2:1-10.
- How do you feel about FPC's new mission statement: "Cultivating community in the way of Jesus for the flourishing of the city"? What do you especially like about it? What makes you feel ambivalent about it?
- How would you describe your mission? How can you discern the good works God has prepared for you?
- What does it mean to you to be called, "God's handiwork" in Ephesians 2:10?

Read Aloud

Genesis 1:26-2:4 & Acts 2:42-47

Head

Observe the text and the author's main points (15-20 Minutes)

1. What kind of work does God perform before the seventh day? What work does God assign to people in Genesis 1:28?
2. God rested on the seventh day. What else does He do in verse 2:3?
3. What happened in Acts 2:42 and what followed as a result?

Heart

Envision how the text—when applied—might transform your inner life in terms of your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors (15-20 Minutes)

1. In Genesis God gives people work as co-laborers. In Acts, how does cultivating community in light of that charge relate to how we cultivate community today? What are we missing?
2. One commentary states “contemporary religious life is plagued by momentary enthusiasm, periodic outbursts, and superficiality.” What do you see as distractions to living out your faith in community?
3. What consistency can you draw from the community in Acts 2?

Hands

Apply the text by moving from inward reflection to outward action looking for ways to live the text out in our lives to serve others (10 Minutes)

Reaching Upwards: Growing in Your Relationship with God

- There are four actions listed in Acts 2:42: (1) teaching, (2) fellowship, (3) breaking of bread, and (4) prayer. Which one(s) do you feel least engaged with today?
- Which one(s) do you feel most engaged with today?
- Pick one of the four actions and commit to a response such as joining a Sunday School class or prayer group. Discuss with your small group.

Reaching Outward: Investing in Your Neighbors

- Do you have any neighbors in need or who need community? Find a way to demonstrate the generosity displayed in Acts to your neighbor with your small group such as hosting a prayer gathering and meal (maybe a pot-luck?). Discuss as a group what you have done in the past, what you would like to do, and what you will do.
- Invite seekers into Christian community by inviting them to Alpha. Pray for morning Alpha that begins October 31 from 8-9 AM in the Solarium. This Alpha is focussed on - but not limited to - Presbyterian School parents. We need volunteers to help and people to attend. For more information contact Emmanuel Paulpeter, Pastor of Outreach, epaulpeter@fpchouston.org
- Ask an FPC covenant partner, a neighbor, or a friend to join you on a short **Local Mission Partner Field Trip** from 12-1:30 pm on Thursday, September 26 to **Forge for Families**. Forge is a priority ministry partner whose vision involves fostering a fun, Christ-centered environment through strategic investment and collaboration, helping families to grow educationally, economically, and spiritually. There are many volunteer opportunities to learn about on the field trip. For more information and to RSVP contact Madie Weir, Missions Coordinator, at mweir@fpchouston.org.

Reaching Beyond

- Experiencing community can result in a compassionate attitude towards others since all are in need of the encouragement and the good example of others. Through FPC's partnership with African Renewal Mission (ARM) and recent trip to Africa by Pastor Curtis and covenant partners, we know that there are many children in Uganda who need sponsorship for health

care, school, and discipleship training. Sponsorships cost \$40 a month. For information and to sponsor a child, go to africarenewal.org/child-pages/child-summary.

- **Micah Project - Pickleball Social Fundraiser** - Friday | September 27 | 6-9 PM - Join the Micah Project for a fun filled evening of playing pickleball with a purpose! This is a family friendly event to support our anchor partner by playing in the tournament, mingling while watching, and enjoying food and fellowship. If you cannot attend, sponsors are also needed for the event and would be a blessing! Contact Becca Herbold at rlherbold@comcast.net or 713-325-1282 with any questions. Click here for more details and tickets/sponsorships: secure.ggiv.com/event/micahproject-auction/