

THE
MATTER
OF CHURCH

A FIRST FAMILY CHURCH RESOURCE

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO



a devoted follower of Jesus

THE MATTER OF CHURCH

A WORD FROM THE ELDERS

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a privilege it is to be part of God's family with you and members of this local body, First Family Church! We get to be part of the institution God designed to get the gospel to the ends of the world. He could have just used prophets, priests, or kings; instead, he calls us all to be his representatives with our time on earth. He didn't ask us to do it alone, but placed us into local communities of believers to help us along our journey—the local church. We hope and pray that as we look at the church from 1 Timothy, we will come to a greater love and respect for the church that Christ bought with His own blood.

As we learn more about God's design for the church, we pray our church will grow in our passion for playing our part well in this local body. Thank you for being part of First Family church! You are essential to us accomplishing the mission to which God has called us. We love you and need you! Thanks for following the leaders of this church so well.

HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

This journal is like a Swiss Army Knife: it has multiple tools all in one product. There are four weeks in this series, with two sections per week: one for getting the most out of the Sunday sermon, and another for study personally and in your Small Group community. Spiritual growth takes work, but we want to make it as “simple” as possible. We hope this tool will be a blessing to you.

SERMON SECTION

We hope that each week you will arrive to our Sunday morning services prepared to hear from God and to obey His Word. In preparation, please read over that week’s text and pray that God would open your ears and heart to what He wants you to hear and do.

Sermon text with room for marking up The preacher’s job is to help you see what the Word of God says. One of the best ways to do this is to show you the flow of the text as it is laid out in the Bible. Marking up the text is an effective way to see it more clearly. Each week, bring something to write with and follow along as we point out the main words and phrases in the text.

Weekly devotional written by an FFC member The insights from others can help us see a passage of Scripture in a new light. FFC has many talented writers in our church family. Each week we provide for you a short devotional that you can read during the week as you spend time with God. We hope that you will be encouraged and challenged by the insights of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Room for note-taking Taking notes increases what you remember. During the sermon, please write down what you hear from the preacher or from the Holy Spirit. God uses the preaching of the Word of God, and we don’t want what you hear to be forgotten. Take notes each week and then review your notes throughout the week. Also provided is a spot to write down the take-home truth for the week, as well as a spot to write down any immediate promptings from the Holy Spirit called, “This week I will...”

STUDY SECTION

Our prayer is that you wouldn’t let your time with Scripture be limited to hearing preaching on Sunday morning, but that personally and in community, you’d be engaging with Scripture every single day.

Recommended Scripture memorization verses The best way to meditate on the Word of God is by hiding it in our hearts. Spend a few minutes every day working on memorizing a verse or two of that week’s text. Each week we will give you the main verse or phrase of that week’s text. Read it several times every day and see how quickly you can memorize portions of Scripture.

Discussion/reflection questions As we often say, we grow best in community, and Small Groups go best when each member is prepared to contribute to the conversation. So, each week we will give you several Small Group discussion questions that you can think through before you discuss them as a group. Please spend a few minutes looking through these questions before you attend your Small Group. This will make your discussion time so much more rich and profitable for everyone.

Prayer from the elders Our elders have prepared a simple prayer to conclude each section that we desire each FFCer to pray individually and/or in their Small Group. Prayer is, after all, our first and best action.

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BIBLE READING PLAN

EXTRA POINT PODCAST

Read through this Bible-in-a-year reading plan individually, with your family, or with your Small Group. Find and follow this plan on the YouVersion Bible app by scanning the QR code below or visiting [*firstfamily.church/bible-plan*](https://firstfamily.church/bible-plan).



Tune in to the Extra Point Podcast for extra content and questions answered from Sunday sermons. New episodes each Tuesday! Listen and subscribe at [*firstfamily.church/podcasts*](https://firstfamily.church/podcasts).





Week 1

THE MATTER OF CHURCH



WEEK 1 | SERMON

IDENTITY MATTERS

1 Timothy 3:15

¹ This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.” ² An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. ⁴ He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?) ⁶ He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil.

⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

⁸ Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. ¹¹ Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. ¹² Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon.

¹⁵ But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

¹⁶ And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

NOTES

TAKE-HOME TRUTH

THIS WEEK I WILL.....

NOTES

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WEEK 1 | STUDY

WHO WE ARE

Part 1

WEEK 1

WHO WE ARE (PART 1)

1

**When did you first encounter First Family Church?
What were the circumstances that caused you first to attend?**

2

What has caused you to stay at First Family Church?

3

If someone asked you, “Who is First Family Church?,” how would you answer that question?

4

As we walked you through the name and history of FFC, was there anything new that you learned or were surprised by?

For resources for this section, visit page 67.

5 Does a church's theology matter? How high on the priority list should it be when finding a good church?

6 Read FFC's Core Beliefs and take a few moments to pray and thank God for the truth He has revealed.

7 How solid are you in biblical theology? What areas of theology do you need to grow in and learn more about?

8 What was one takeaway from Sunday's sermon?

DEVOTIONAL

The Apostle Paul is writing here to Timothy, his devoted son in the faith. He had just described the necessity of living a “godly and dignified” life that is characterized by prayer and holy living. He had also provided Timothy with qualifications for elders and deacons, those who would act as servant-leaders within the household of God. Paul then announces the glorious reality of what the church of God is called to be, “the pillar and foundation of the truth.” This truth is the gospel of Jesus Christ. As the church, we are set apart from the world and tasked with upholding and defending the message of Christ crucified.

The Bible commonly uses architectural language to describe the magnificent reality of who we are in Christ and what the church is called to do. 1 Peter 2:5 tells us that we, “as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 2:19–22 likewise describes us as being “members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God’s dwelling in the Spirit.” How incredible it is to be a member of the family of God, being built up as living stones for the advancement of the gospel and the glory of our King.

In this particular passage we see that the church is a “pillar and foundation,” architectural features intended to support and uphold the structural integrity of a building. The church, with Christ as her head, has been tasked with defending and proclaiming the life-giving truth of the gospel message. As this truth is brought into the world, the church will grow and the name of Jesus Christ will be made known among every tribe, tongue, and nation. What a glorious reality this is! Thanks be to God that He has adopted us into His family and has granted us innumerable blessings as His children.

MEMORY VERSE

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”
Ephesians 4:15

*Heavenly Father,
Make us increasingly aware of
who we are—yours! You have
purchased us with your blood; we
have been bought with a price.
As your people, we pray you will
empower us to walk distinctly
and differently, empowered by
your Spirit and committed to
your purposes for your glory.
In Christ's name, amen.*

Week 2

THE MATTER OF CHURCH





WEEK 2 | SERMON

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

1 Timothy 3:1–13

¹ This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.” ² An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not an excessive drinker, not a bully but gentle, not quarrelsome, not greedy. ⁴ He must manage his own household competently and have his children under control with all dignity. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of God’s church?) ⁶ He must not be a new convert, or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷ Furthermore, he must have a good reputation among outsiders, so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil’s trap.

⁸ Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. ¹¹ Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. ¹² Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. ¹⁵ But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

NOTES

TAKE-HOME TRUTH

THIS WEEK I WILL.....

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WEEK 2 | STUDY

WHO WE ARE

Part 2

WEEK 2

WHO WE ARE (PART 2)

1 What are some things your family values highly? Why these?

2 What is the mission of FFC? In what ways do you hear this throughout the year?

3 Read the FFC Values (p. 68) one-by-one, out loud. Which of these are you most grateful for?

4 What is the role on an elder? What is the role of a deacon? What is the role of the staff?

For resources for this section, visit page 68.

5 Explain what we mean when we say “copyability.”

6 What are some of the copyable qualities all of our FFC leaders ought to demonstrate?

7 Take a few moments and pray for the FFC leadership (elders, deacons, staff).

8 What was one takeaway from Sunday’s sermon?

DEVOTIONAL

The Christian church of the first century grew more rapidly than any other religion in history. Powered by the Holy Spirit and energized by people who'd personally met Jesus, the Christian community exploded from a few hundred followers in the early 30s to tens of thousands by the time John wrote his Apocalypse. With rapid growth came the destabilizing effects of inexperienced and poorly trained elders being placed in prominent leadership roles within the community. Those effects were devastating, causing major rifts in doctrine (e.g., Gnosticism) and perpetual rifts among congregations (e.g., Corinth) that persisted for centuries.

Our holy Scriptures reveal the specific leadership problems of the early church through the hortatory remarks of 1 Timothy 3. Apparently young, inexperienced men were being elevated to overseer roles in which they were ill-equipped to handle. Some were divisive drunkards who couldn't manage their own families well. Others were lovers of money, proud men who sought tyranny and titles and whose hearts cared more about status and prestige than building disciples of Jesus.

In his excellent book *Biblical Eldership*, Alexander Strauch outlines fundamental requirements for church leaders that align with biblical precedent. For example, elders and deacons should be shepherds who lead through loving attention, feeding their flocks, caring for practical needs, acting as positive role models, and providing loving correction. They get their hands “dirty” by embedding themselves within the flock and serving through hard work while carefully removing roadblocks (so much so that they “smell” like the sheep they are shepherding, in contrast to the “hired hands” who sit watching on remote rocks). They are spiritually alert, intimately acquainted with the Scriptures, and able to teach the Word to new generations of followers.

Although the principles outlined in 1 Timothy 3 relate to appointed elders and deacons, those leadership fundamentals apply to all members of the body of Christ. A wise person once said that we are all leaders—whether we realize it or not—because we are constantly influencing others through our words and actions. How about you? Are you exemplifying the characteristics of godly leadership among your fellow Christian brothers and sisters?

MEMORY VERSE

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:20–22

*Heavenly Father,
We are grateful for your design
of the church. Thank you for
equipping every saint with gifts
that enable the body to care for
one another, and for giving the
church qualified leaders, such
as our elders, deacons, and staff,
who equip the saints. We commit
to living and following humbly,
and pray that our leaders will
serve and lead in the same way—
humbly. Grant us all much grace
as we strive to keep the unity of
the body in the bond of peace.
In Christ's name, amen.*

Week 3

THE MATTER OF CHURCH





WEEK 3 | SERMON

TRUTH MATTERS

1 Timothy 4:11-16

¹ Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, ² through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. ³ They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ since it is sanctified by the word of God and by prayer.

⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished by the words of the faith and the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. ⁸ For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching. ¹⁴ Don't neglect the gift that is in you; it was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. ¹⁵ Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

NOTES

NOTES

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WEEK 3 | STUDY

**WHAT
WE DO**

WEEK 3

WHAT WE DO

1

What is FFC's strategy for accomplishing its mission?

2

Which service or campus do you attend weekly?

3

To which Small Group do you belong?

4

On which ministry team do you serve?

For resources for this section, visit page 69.

5 How does our strategy help accomplish our mission?
Put it in your own words.

6 What are the 5 steps on the Discipleship Pathway?
Define each step briefly.

7 What is your next step? For help on this, take our Discipleship
Pathway self-assessment. *firstfamily.church/dp-assessment*

8 What was one takeaway from Sunday's sermon?

DEVOTIONAL

“Life’s roughest storms prove the strength of our anchors.” This past summer our family took a road trip to the Northeast, which included a trip to a seaport museum in Connecticut. In the midst of all the boats were anchors of all sizes. My mind raced to the storms that these ships must’ve encountered over the years and how their crews likely had to rely on the anchors at strategic times to remain grounded against the waves. Although we may not be able to relate to marine life, many of us have experienced the pounding waves from the storms of life. Issues with health, finances, or personal rejection have the potential force to deceive us or disorient us from what’s eternally important. Not only can the waves of change rock us individually, but they can harm the whole church body. As society changes over time, a redefining of truth and acceptable norms can threaten to slowly cause the church’s beliefs to drift away to a place unrecognizable to Christians of centuries past.

I believe Paul knew that our hearts are prone to wander both individually and corporately when he wrote to Timothy in 1 Tim 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” What is the solution to drifting away from safe harbors when the winds of change blow? It’s to stand firm in truth. Since truth is unchanging and defined by God, a foundation of the church is to stay grounded in the Scripture as an anchor. In the first century, there were fewer accessible copies of the Scriptures. Without the New Testament complete, when Paul wrote this, he was likely referring to the public reading of the Old Testament as the “Scripture.” So just as people back then had a need not only to know truth and see Christ in it, we are no different today. The ministry of church leaders is to “devote” themselves to proclaiming Scripture. The Greek word for “devote” here literally means to hold oneself to, or attach oneself to. It was sometimes used in nautical terms to remain on course.

An important tool to stay on course and stay grounded when the waves threaten to pull sailors away is an anchor. But for us, one of the foundational ministries of the church should be to anchor and devote ourselves to the unchanging truth of Scripture. In our own lives, we know the winds will blow. If we stay grounded in Scripture, our faith will stay grounded in God’s truth as He carries us safely home.

MEMORY VERSE

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16

*Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the constant
foundation of your Word, the
unchanging written truth upon
which we can build our life.
Thank you for the living Truth,
Jesus, upon whom you will build
your church. Make our spines
strong, our stances firm, and our
smiles genuine as we live out the
principles of your truth with bold
intentionality and conviction.
In Christ's name, amen.*

An abstract sculpture made of teal and white material, possibly clay or stone, with organic, flowing forms. The sculpture is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its base extending towards the bottom left. The background is a plain, light color.

Week 4

THE MATTER OF CHURCH



WEEK 4 | SERMON

RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

1 Timothy 1:1–7; 18–20

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope: ² To Timothy, my true son in the faith. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine ⁴ or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. These promote empty speculations rather than God's plan, which operates by faith. ⁵ Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.

⁶ Some have departed from these and turned aside to fruitless discussion. ⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, although they don't understand what they are saying or what they are insisting on.

¹⁸ Timothy, my son, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies previously made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and have shipwrecked the faith. ²⁰ Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan, so that they may be taught not to blaspheme.

NOTES

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TAKE-HOME TRUTH

Dotted lines for Take-Home Truth.

THIS WEEK I WILL

Dotted lines for This Week I Will.

NOTES

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WEEK 4 | STUDY

**WHERE WE'RE
HEADED**

WEEK 4

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

1 What is the vision of FFC? What is the tagline we often use?

2 Why is multiplication and reproduction so important to our church?

3 Whose job is it to multiply? Is it a job for only pastors, partners and planters?

4 What is the 435 Network?
Name our current church plants and pastors.

For resources for this section, visit page 70.

5 In your own words, where is FFC headed? What do we hope God will allow us to be a part of in the next 15 years or so?

6 What is a “gospel outpost”? Can you name any of our current ones?

7 Is your Small Group ready to reproduce? What are your next steps?

8 What was one takeaway from Sunday’s sermon?

DEVOTIONAL

In his first epistle (letter) to Timothy, Paul is giving some needed counsel and encouragement to his young protégé. Timothy is pastoring in Ephesus, one of the more significant churches of the first century, and like all pastors, he is running into challenges.

Paul's charge to Timothy is simple: stay where you are (v. 3) and guard the sheep. Paul is providing a shot of encouragement because Timothy's task is difficult and he no doubt lacks confidence and courage.

Leading a church today is still filled with many challenges. Secular ideology may not be evident at First Family today, but if we are not careful, we will become the frog in the kettle, slowly adapting and dying in a pot of relativism. It is all around us. It is in our schools. It is in our workplaces. Timothy was dealing with the same thing, a different ideology, but still a blend of Satanic paganism and crooked theology that controlled the culture and was creeping into the church, drawing believers away from the truth.

As a Christian, it is essential to be a part of a church family. Shepherds are called to guard the flock, but the sheep must also follow the shepherd. It is a symbiotic relationship. If Paul was writing a letter to First Family, he would say to the pastors, stay where you are and guard the sheep, and to the congregation he would say love one another from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith. These are the makers of a healthy church.

MEMORY VERSE

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24–25

*Heavenly Father,
Teach us to love one another, and
root our love for one another in your
love for us. We ask that you would
enable us to love in deed and in action,
sacrificing for the good of our spiritual
family. Remind us daily that genuine
members of your church are spiritual
brothers and sisters who belong to
the same family—yours! Thank you
that this spiritual family exists both
universally and locally, and empower
us to value these relationships that are
bound together in you.
In Christ's name, amen.*

RESOURCES

**WATCH OUR 15 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY DOC HERE:**

firstfamily.church/documentary

**FFC'S CORE BELIEFS**

- We believe the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- We believe in the Genesis account of creation (Genesis 1:1).
- We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).
- We believe in Jesus Christ, His deity, virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death, burial and bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His personal future return in power and glory (John 1:1; Matthew 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9, 11).
- We believe in the sinfulness of man and the gift of salvation by grace through faith in Christ who shed His blood. This makes believers eternally secure in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23-25; 8:38-39).
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and enables the Christian to live a godly life (John 14:26-27).
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead: the believer to life everlasting and the unbeliever to the resurrection of judgment (John 5:28-29).
- We believe in the church as the body of Christ, which is composed of all believers who have accepted Christ as Savior (1 Cor. 12:12-13).

**VIEW OUR POSITION
PAPERS HERE:**

firstfamily.church/position-papers

**READ OUR FAITH AND
MESSAGE HERE:**

firstfamily.church/who-we-are



FFC'S VALUES

- **We value God.** God is the beginning and end of everything, and his aim in all things is to maximize his own glory. God is not a tool to leverage or a product to sell. He is treasure to worship, and the essence of who he is satisfies every craving of our hearts and lives.
- **We value God's image-stamped creation, people.** All people matter to God, and he invites everyone to become part of his family through repentance from sin and faith in his Son.
- **We value God's called-out family, the church.** The church is more than a nice idea; it is a necessary ingredient for spiritual growth and community. Its members and leaders commit their time, service, finances, and prayers to work together to guard, teach and practice the sound doctrine once for all given to the saints. Pursuing a fully-functioning, biblical community means we care more about being doctrinally sound than culturally relevant.
- **We value God's disciple-making mandate, the Great Commission.** Intentional and proactive outreach means utilizing every available means to spread the gospel both near and far. Multiplication, both individually and organizationally, is a natural overflow of a healthy church.
- **We value God's biblically-qualified leaders, the church's equippers.** Men and women who equip, mobilize, and release others to serve the church are a gift to the church. Nurturing and growing a solid staff team, as well as other leadership teams, is a priority.
- **We value God's Spirit-empowered enablements, spiritual gifts.** One way God's active and manifest presence is seen is through spiritual gifts, all of which are good and profitable. Each is distributed as God sees fit and are designed to move the church towards maturity in Christ.
- **We value God's divinely-designed environment, the home.** Biblical homes and strong united families are the bedrock of a church and culture, and following God's complementarian structure is the way of wisdom for parents and children.
- **We value God's counter-intuitive maturing process, suffering.** Life as a disciple of Jesus is a marathon, not a sprint, and that marathon includes seasons of suffering. While the degree of suffering is variable, the fact of it isn't; it is necessary for spiritual completion. We embrace this perspective, heed the call for endurance, and run this race with perseverance.

GET TO KNOW OUR
LEADERSHIP HERE:

firstfamily.church/leadership



FFC'S STRATEGY

- **Celebrate the Gospel** Remembering the good news of what Jesus has accomplished—the gospel—fuels our joy in God, focuses our eyes on God, shapes our hearts like God's, and moves our feet for God. The gospel is essential and at the heart of everything we do at First Family. It's worth celebrating! You'll see this evidenced at all our gatherings, but especially at our Sunday services. Each message preached at FFC comes back to Christ and the gospel. You'll find that the gospel is not just the ABCs of Christianity, it's the whole alphabet.
- **Grow in Community** Connecting with the local community of believers in Christ sustains life change, fosters accountability, and is essential to spiritual growth. Small Groups are the family in First Family Church. This is the primary avenue for a deeper connection to this local body. It is in a Small Group that you form the meaningful relationships needed during times of celebration and crisis, as well as the accountability necessary for sustained life change. In addition, participating in a Small Group is one of the best tools for outreach and evangelism. Truly, the community of First Family is best seen and felt in a Small Group.
- **Serve the Mission** Using the gifts God gives us to further his mission builds our spiritual muscles, broadens our outreach, and molds us into the image of Christ. That's why First Family encourages everyone to use his or her spiritual gift(s) each week for the good of the body of Christ. From the front door greeter and the tech team member to the elementary class teacher and the youth leader, every area of serving is valuable.

FFC'S DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

- **Step 1: Belong** Spiritual growth begins with conversion, the moment one takes their stand on the gospel alone as the only way to be saved.
- **Step 2: Connect** Every believer needs a local, spiritual family, a church where Jesus is our head and fellow believers are our brothers and sisters.
- **Step 3: Grow** Christians grow best in community, known as Small Groups at FFC. This is where we are known, loved, and apply God's Word together.
- **Step 4: Serve** We are saved to serve. Every believer is given spiritual gifts which are meant to be used for the good of others and the glory of God.
- **Step 5: Multiply** God calls all His followers to make disciples who will also make disciples.

**TAKE THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY
SELF-ASSESSMENT HERE:**

firstfamily.church/dp-assessment



FFC'S CHURCH PLANTS

- **First Family Church Bondurant** Planted 2013. Pastor: Mark Spencer
- **Redeemer Church** Central Asia. Planted 2016. Pastor: Timur Nesbitt
- **LifeChange Church** Des Moines, IA. Planted 2017. Pastor: Steve Christiansen
- **CityPoint Church** Urbandale, IA. Planted 2018. Pastor: Nick Reed
 - **Generations Church** Waterloo, IA. Planting 2023. Pastor: Jeff Ream
- **First Family Church Albia** Planted 2019.
- **Restoration Church** Adel, IA. Planted 2019. Pastor: Eric Trout
- **Ankeny Gospel Church** Planted 2022. Pastor: Parker McGoldrick

NOTES

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

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