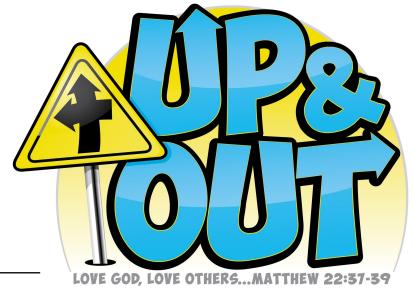


Core Values

Huddle 3: *Faithfully Gathered*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- Who is your favorite person to play with?
- What do you like to do when you are together?
- When you are sad, mad, or frustrated, who is the first person you want to talk to?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Who can tell me what we have been talking about the past 2 weeks in Up and Out? (*The Core Values of Grace Church*) Can anyone name 1 of the 2 we have discussed so far? (*Biblically Oriented and Prayerfully Dependent*) Does anyone remember how many Core values we have? There are 6 Core Values that our church body believes the Bible teaches us to be of utmost importance.

1. Biblically Oriented
2. Prayerfully Dependent
3. Faithfully Gathered
4. Courageously Generous
5. Ministry Focused
6. Culturally Engaged

Today's lesson will focus on the third Core Value – Faithfully Gathered. Can anyone name some different places that you gather together with other people? (dinner table, classroom, playground, church, sports games/practices, neighborhood). We actually have quite a few different places we get together with other people. What are some benefits of gathering together with other people? (*fun, encouragement, help, learning, wisdom, support, etc.*)

God has designed us to live in communities with one another to **encourage** one another and to **keep each other accountable**, or true to our beliefs.

There are several places in the Bible that speak to this truth. Let's all turn to one example now. (*Teachers make sure each student has a Bible and you or an older student can help the younger students find each passage, have a student volunteer to read each verse*)

1) Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

I am going to read this passage once more. From time to time I will pause and I want you all to shout out the answer either by memory or by following along in your Bible.

Hebrews 10:23-25, “Let us hold tightly without wavering to the **hope** we affirm, for **God** can be trusted to keep his **promise**. Let us think of ways to **motivate** one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our **meeting together**, as some people do, but **encourage** one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

This passage explains that meeting together regularly at church is important. Not just for our own spiritual health but the health of others. It is very hard to motivate and encourage one another when we don't see each other. This is one reason why being *faithfully gathered* is one of our core values.

Let's look at another passage:

2) 1 Thessalonians 5:14, “Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.”

Again, I will read this through one more time and have you fill in the blanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:14, “Brothers and sisters, we urge you to **warn** those who are lazy. **Encourage** those who are timid. Take tender **care** of those who are weak. Be **patient** with everyone.”

This passage notes the importance of warning others not to be lazy. Sometimes we can lose sight of all that Jesus has done for us. Our lazy minds can be captured by less important things of the world like new toys, sports, money, etc. The second part of this verse says to encourage those who are _____? (*Timid*) and to take care of those who are _____? (*Weak*) What does timid mean? (*Shy, fearful*) Why do we not need to be timid? (*Because God has overcome the World. He sent His son to die for our sins. He has provided a way for us to be with Him in heaven.*) The final sentence in verse 14 says to Be _____ (*Patient*) with everyone. Who can give an example of how they were patient with someone this week?

Faithfully Gathered is an important “Core Value” to our church. Gathering together to worship, study God’s word and build healthy relationships with one another increases our understanding of who God is and how He works through us to encourage and care for each other.

Can I have a volunteer pray for us before we play some fun games?

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Peek-A-Who?

Have all of the children close their eyes and select 2 people to stand back to back. Everyone can open their eyes on the count of 3 and both students turn around to face each other. Whoever says the name of the other person first wins. Play continues until students lose interest.

ACTIVITY: Who is Missing?

Have all the students line up against the wall with their eyes covered. One person is selected to go wait in the hall (behind a divider/unseen). Everyone opens their eyes and sees how long it takes for someone to discover who is missing?

ACTIVITY: Name Game

Everyone sits in a circle. The first person says their name and a food or candy that starts with the same letter as their first name. (April – apple, Tyler—Twix, Caleb—cucumber) The second person says player #1’s name & food, plus their own name/food, and it continues around the circle.

Leader prays for the group.



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