

EXCEEDING GRACE CHRISTIAN CENTER GROUND SCHOOL

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SESSION 1

SALVATION, PART 1: God's Plan for Redemption

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the kind of life God had in mind when He created man
- Explain the effect that Adam's sin had on creation
- Explain the roles that grace and faith play in salvation
- Explain the 5 things that take place upon salvation
- Be baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues

GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN FOR MAN (*Genesis 1:26-31, Psalms 8:4-8*)

1. Man was created in God's _____ and _____.
2. Man was in _____ with God. (*Genesis 2:16-23*)
3. Man had eternal _____. (*Genesis 2:9*)

THE FALL AND REDEMPTION OF MAN (*Genesis 3:1-7*)

4. When Adam disobeyed God, he stepped out of _____.
5. Man now suffers _____ and _____.
_____. (*Hebrews 9:27; Romans 6:23*)
6. Salvation is attained by _____ through _____. (*Ephesians 2:8*)
Salvation cannot be earned. It is a gift given to us by God.
7. Salvation is received when you _____ with your mouth. You are made righteous when you _____ with your heart. (*Romans 10:9-10*)

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior:

- We are separated from our sins (*2 Corinthians 5:17-19, 1 John 1:9, Psalm 103:12*).
- We are **made** righteous (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).
- We receive the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 1:13*).
- We are granted eternal life (*John 3:16, Revelation 20:15*).
- We are translated into the Kingdom of God (*Colossians 1:13*).

SESSION 1

SALVATION, PART 2: God's Formula for Success

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and explain the seven steps new believers should take following salvation to ensure a successful Christian life (based on Acts 2:36-42).

Salvation is the first step in the journey to fulfill God's purpose for your life. Once you have accepted Christ, there are some things you must do according to Acts 2:41-42.

1. Be _____ (Mark 16:16).

- Baptism is a command (Acts 2:38).
- Baptism is not salvation.
- Baptism is an outward symbol of what has taken place inwardly (Romans 6:1-6).
- Baptism publicly associates us with Christ.

2. Join a _____.

Why do we need pastors?

For many of today's Christians, the concept of Pastoral Covering is misunderstood, and thereby undervalued. But the Bible makes it clear that pastors are essential to the church in general and believers in particular. We need, submit to and honor our pastors because:

- They are _____ from God to the church. (Jeremiah 23:3,4; Ephesians 4:11-14)
- They provide _____ and understanding from the Word of God. (Jeremiah 3:15)
- They protect us from Satan's _____. (1 Timothy 4:1-6; Hebrews 13:17)
- They provide a _____ example of a Godly life. (1 Timothy 4:12-16; 1 Peter 5:2-4)

3. Devote myself to _____ the Word of God.

- It is important that you make a commitment to learning about the Word of God. That is how we discover what God expects from us and what we can expect from Him.

4. Commit to regular _____ (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Why is my regular attendance important?

Many Christians take church attendance lightly. Some even think that one does not need to attend church to be a Christian. Although this statement is true, such behavior will always leave believers vulnerable to Satan. Regular fellowship must **never** be neglected because:

- It is _____ to my growth as a believer. (Acts 2:42, Ephesians 4:11-15)
- It brings _____ to my soul and spirit. (Psalm 133)
- It allows me to _____ in my unique capacity. (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:16)
- It enables me to _____ others in Christ. (Hebrews 10:24, 25)

5. Develop a _____ life.

Prayer is our way of communicating with God. It allows us to talk to God, but it also requires us to listen. Prayer is an integral part of our lives as believers.

6. Participate in _____(1 Corinthians 11:23-30)
- We take communion (The Lord's Supper) to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. We are also reminded that we are one body or family.

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *When, where, and why did you give your life to Christ, and how have you changed since receiving salvation? What things do you like most about attending church? What are some things that you have learned at church? How has attending church impacted your life?*

SESSION 2

HOLINESS AND SANCTIFICATION: Set Apart for God

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain why it is important for Christians to live holy lives
- Explain how we can break the cycle of sin in our lives based on 2 Corinthians 4:10
- Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us live holy lives

BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD

1. God is holy by _____. (Isaiah 6:1-7, Revelation 4:8)
 - Holy means pure, blameless or undefiled
2. We are _____ by faith in the blood of Jesus. (Colossians 1:21-23, Jude 1:24, Hebrews 10:10)
3. We are _____ by faith. (Acts 26:18, Ephesians 1:4-6)
 - Sanctified means set apart for God
 - Once we are in Christ, God does not see us as who we used to be, but He sees us as whom He has made us.

A NEW LIFE

4. Once we're saved we must strive to be like _____. (1 Peter 1:13-17, Philippians 2:12-18)
 - Our salvation is a finished work, but in order to fulfill your purpose and receive all that God has for us, we must grow in our walk with God. (2 Timothy 2:19-21)
5. At Judgment we will be held accountable for our _____, _____ and _____. (Matthew 12:33-37, Romans 14:9-12, Psalm 19:14)
6. We must take off our old characteristics and take on a new _____. (Ephesians 4:17-5:21 Colossians 3:1-17)
7. The transformation begins in the _____. (Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:2, Proverbs 23:7).
 - James 1:13
 - 2 Corinthians 4:10
8. Holiness and sanctification require a _____ from the world. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
9. The _____ helps us live a godly life. (John 14:25-26, 2 Peter 1:3-11)

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *What areas in your life do you find it most difficult to maintain holiness?*

What makes it difficult to maintain holiness in those areas? _____

What things and/or people in your life make it difficult to maintain holiness? _____

What things can you do to make maintaining holiness easier? _____

SESSION 3

LOVE: The Character of God

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Explain God's sacrificial, unconditional, and immeasurable love for us.
- What it means to love God based on Matthew 14:15-23
- Explain how we demonstrate love for others based on 1 John 3:16-20
- List the differences between God's love and human love based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

GOD'S LOVE FOR US

1. God's love is _____. (John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-12, Romans 5:6-8)
 - God loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son, so that we could be reconciled back to Him. God was willing to give us the advantage even though it would cost Him His Son's life.
2. God's love is _____. (Romans 8:38-39)
 - There is nothing that we can do to make God stop loving us. His love for us is not based on what we do, but on who He is.
3. God's love is _____. (Ephesians 3:16-19)
 - God's love for us is so great that it cannot be fully known by human understanding

OUR LOVE FOR GOD

4. We should love God with all of our _____. (Matthew 22:34-38, Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
5. We should love God more than _____. (Matthew 10:37-39)
 - We must not allow anything else in our lives to take precedence over the things of God. Our main focus should be to please Him in everything we do.
6. Our love for God is evidenced by our _____ to Him.
 - (John 14:15-23, 1 John 2:3-6) You cannot merely say that you love God. Someone who truly loves God cannot continue to walk in disobedience.

OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

7. We should love others as we love _____. (Matthew 22:37-38, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 3:16-20)
 - We should be as concerned with the needs of others as we are with our own. Our love for others should compel us to help others whenever we can. Our actions demonstrate true love.
8. There should be a special _____ between believers. (John 17:22-23, 1 Peter 1:22, Galatians 6:10)
9. Our relationship with God is _____ through love. (Galatians 5:6, 1 John 4:11-12)
 - The Bible tells us that God is love. As believers, our conviction is made alive by our good will toward others. When we show love to others, we are showing them God.
10. Love makes our spiritual gifts _____. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

A PICTURE OF LOVE (1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP)

⁴Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. ⁵It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. ⁶It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. ⁷Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. ⁸Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

Love Is

Love Is Not

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION

In what ways do you show God that you love Him? Describe a situation in your life when you saw God's love being demonstrated towards you? _____

SESSION 4

FAITH: Kingdom Currency

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain what it means to live by faith
 - Explain why God's Word is a solid foundation for our faith
 - Explain the role that patience plays in receiving promises from God
1. The just shall live by _____. (Habakkuk 2:4, Hebrews 10:38, Galatians 3:11, Romans 1:17)
 - As believers, we are sustained by faith. Faith is the vehicle by which we obtain salvation. It is also the vehicle by which we receive all other promises of God.
 2. Faith is the confident assurance of what has not yet been revealed to the _____. (Hebrews 11:1)
 3. Our faith is not based on what we see or feel, but what we know according to God's _____.

Faith is not hope that something will happen, but confident assurance that what God said is so.

- The foundation of our faith is the Word of God. We can have full confidence in all of the promises of God because we know that:
 - God is _____ to fulfill every promise in His Word. (Matthew 7:7-11, 1 John 5:14, 2 Corinthians 1: 20)
 - God is _____ to fulfill every promise in His Word
 - The Word of God is:
 - _____ (Hebrews 4:12, Hebrews 11:3)
 - _____ (Isaiah 55:10-11)
 - _____ (Psalm 119:89)
 - We increase our faith by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
4. We must receive the promise in our _____ before we see it in the _____. (Mark 11:24)
 5. Our faith must be accompanied by _____. (James 2:14-25)
 - True faith will change the way we _____.

SESSION 5

PRAYER: Communicating with God

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Define prayer
- List the 4 ways God speaks to His people
- Explain why prayer should be based on God's Word based on Psalm 103:19-20
- List the 6 elements in the model prayer given by Jesus in Mathew 6:5-15
- Describe each of the 6 types of prayer

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

1. Prayer is _____ - _____ with God.
Prayer is not only us talking to God, but God talking to us. God speaks through:
 - His Word (2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 119:105)
 - Inward witness (Romans 8:14-16)
 - Visions and dreams (Acts 10:9-20, Acts 16:6-10)
 - Prophecy (2 Peter 1:19-21)

2. All prayer should be based on _____ . (Psalm 103:20-21)

A MODEL PRAYER

In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus gave instructions on how we should come to God in prayer.

3. We should approach God in _____ and _____. (Psalm 100:4)

4. When we pray, we _____ God's will in the Earth.
 - God has given man authority in the Earth realm. We establish God's will on Earth the same way God establishes His will in Heaven. God uses His powerful Word to establish His will. He has given us the same power to speak things into existence (Romans 4:17).

5. Through prayer we make _____ to God. (Philippians 4:6-7, 1 John 5:14, Matthew 7:7-11)

6. Through prayer we _____ our sins. (1 John 1:9)

TYPES OF PRAYER

7. _____ (Exodus 15:1-21)

8. _____ (Mark 11:22-25)

9. _____ (Philippians 4:6)

10. _____ (Matthew 18:19-20)

11. _____ (James 5:16, 1 Timothy 2:1)

12. _____ (Matthew 16:19)

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

- 13. _____ (Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:2, John 9:31)
- 14. _____ (James 1:5-8, Matthew 13:58)
- 15. _____ (Mark 11:25-26)
- 16. _____ (Romans 8:1-2, 1 John 1:9)
- 17. _____ (James 4:3)

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *How often do you communicate with God? What things do you communicate about? Has God ever spoken to you? If so, how, and how do you know it was God?*

SESSION 5

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Developing Intimacy with God

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the difference between praise and worship
- Identify ways we can praise God
- List the 4 things that praise does
- Define worship
- Define honor
- Define reverence
- Explain the difference between old testament worship and new testament worship
- Explain how we can worship God with our lifestyle

PRAISE

1. Praise is _____ God for what He has done. (Psalm 107:1, 8, Psalm 103:1-13)
 - Praise is born out of gratefulness to God for His works, not how we feel (Psalm 42:11).

We can praise God many different ways including:

- a) _____ (Hebrews 13:15)
- b) _____ (Psalm 47:1)
- c) _____ (Psalm 63:4)
- d) _____ (Psalm 149:1, 5)
- e) _____ (Psalm 47:1)
- f) _____ (Psalm 149:3)
- g) _____ (Psalm 150:3-5)

THE POWER OF PRAISE

2. Praise _____ the presence of the Lord (Psalm 22:3)
3. Praise prepares our _____ to worship God.
4. Praise _____ the enemy (2 Chronicles 20:1-30, 2 Corinthians 10:4)
5. Praise releases the _____ of the Lord (Psalm 50:23).

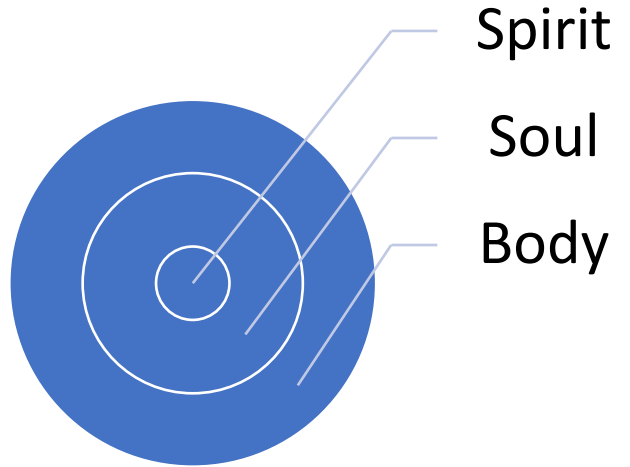
CREATED TO WORSHIP

6. Worship is _____ and _____ God for who He is.
 - Honor: high respect, as for worth, merit, or rank
 - Reverence: a feeling or attitude of deep respect tinged with awe
7. Man was created to _____ God (Revelation 4:11 KJV)
8. Under the Old Covenant worship was _____ (Hebrews 9:1-10)
9. Under the New Covenant we have _____ to the Throne of God. (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22)

10. Under the New Covenant worship is _____ (John 4:21-24)

- Since God is a spirit, we can only connect with Him on a spiritual level
- We must worship God from a clean heart (Psalm 24:3-6; Hebrews 10:22)

Your spirit is your innermost being. In order to connect with God, you must move beyond your flesh and your soul.



11. Worship is a _____, not an event.

- Our worship should extend beyond church services. We can worship and honor God every day in every area of our lives.

Discussion Question: In what ways can we worship God in our everyday lives?

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *Do you think God is pleased by your worship in the corporate setting, why or why not? Do you think God is pleased with your personal worship, why or why not? What can you do to make your personal and corporate worship more pleasing to God?*

SESSION 6

GIVING: Operating in the Kingdom Economy

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Define “tithe”
- Explain why we give the tithe
- List 3 ways that the tithes and offerings are used in the church

GIVING TO GOD

1. _____ gave the first tithe to the priest Melchizedek. (Genesis 14:17-20)
2. We give tithe to _____ God. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
Under the Old Covenant, giving the tithe was required. (Leviticus 27:30) Now we give the tithe as an act of worship and thanksgiving.
 - Tithe means “a tenth”
 - There is no specified amount for offerings (Exodus 25:1-9; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - We should give from a willing heart
3. The tithes and offerings are used to take care of the _____. (Numbers 18:21-32)
4. The tithes and offerings are used to take care of the _____
(Exodus 35:20-29, 36:1-7; Malachi 3:10)
5. The tithes and offerings are used to _____
(Deuteronomy 14:28-29, 2 Corinthians 8:15).
6. Sowing into the Kingdom should be a _____. (Haggai 1:1-11)

THE BLESSING OF GIVING

7. The Kingdom of God operates by _____ and _____.
(Genesis 8:22, 2 Corinthians 9:6)
8. God _____ those who tithe faithfully. (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Malachi 3:10-12)
9. We can reap _____ on the seed we sow into God’s Kingdom. (Luke 18:29-30)
 - We must learn to live off of our harvest
10. Money reveals what is in a person’s _____ (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:10; Luke 16:10-14)

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *Do you tithe and give offerings to God? How often do you give to meet the needs of others? Can you remember a time when you gave and reaped a harvest from your giving?*

SESSION 7

THE CHURCH, PART 1: What the Church Means to Me

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- List 4 symbols used to represent the church
- List 4 things the church has been called to do
- List and describe the 5-fold ministry gifts

WHO WE ARE

1. We are God's _____. (Ephesians 2:19-20, Romans 8:15-17, 11:11-24)
 - Everyone who has accepted Christ is a part of God's family. We are His chosen people.
2. We are God's _____. (Ephesians 2:21-22, 1 Corinthians 6:19)
3. We are the _____ of Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
4. We are _____ and _____. (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6, Revelation 5:10)
 - As kings we rule the earth, and as priests we worship God
5. We are to continue the _____ of Christ. (Matthew 9:35-10:8; Mark 16:17-18)
 - The church was not established to simply meet on Sunday mornings. We have been given an assignment to continue the work of Christ. Jesus changed lives by teaching the Kingdom message and by performing miracles. We have been called to this same ministry.
6. We are called to make _____. (Matthew 28:18-20)
7. We are called to _____. (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 2:44-45)
8. We are called to _____ with each other. (Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:24-25)
9. We are instructed to use our _____ to advance God's Kingdom. (1 Corinthians 12:7; Exodus 35:30-35)
 - We all have a part to play in advancing God's Kingdom. He has given us all gifts, skills and abilities. We must discover what they are and use them to serve God.

5-Fold Ministry Gifts are called and appointed by God and confirmed (*recognized*) by spiritual leaders.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SESSION 7

THE CHURCH, PART 2: What I mean to the Church

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and describe the nine manifestations of the Spirit
- Explain the difference between spiritual gifts and ministry gifts
- List 4 things you can do the position yourself for the Spirit to manifest through you
- Identify ministry gifts listed in the Bible
- Define anointing
- Complete Spiritual Gifts Discovery Tool (*available online*)

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 lists nine spiritual gifts or manifestations of the Spirit. These manifestations are available to everyone as God chooses, and are meant to benefit the Body of Christ. These manifestations are spiritual, not natural. God may choose to manifest these gifts at a given time through a specific person. The following is a list of spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible:

1. WORD of _____: _____

2. WORD of _____: _____

3. GIFT of _____: _____

4. GIFTS of _____: _____

5. WORKING of _____: _____

6. _____: _____

7. DISCERNING of _____: _____

8. DIFFERENT KINDS of _____: _____

9. _____ of TONGUES: _____

You can position yourself for these manifestations of the Spirit by **believing** they are for the church today, **earnestly desiring** them and **expecting** them to occur.

Ministry gifts are the skills, abilities and talents that God has given us that we can use to serve Him and His people (Romans 12:6-8. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

HOW WE DO IT

1. The Holy Spirit gives us _____ and _____
(*anointing*) to do what we could not do on our own. (1 Samuel 19:19-22, John 20:21-22, Acts 1:7-8)
 - It was not until after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension that the Holy Spirit indwelt man (John 14:15-26, 16:5-7)
2. The Holy Spirit empowers us to use our gifts _____.
(1 Corinthians 12:11; Acts 1:8, Acts 10:34-38)

NOTES: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *What are your thoughts and feelings about church? How have they changed after going through this lesson? Which gifts do you desire for God to manifest through you? What ministry gifts do you possess? Are you currently using them at Exceeding Grace Christian Center, if not, how can you begin using them?* _____

SESSION 8

EGCC, PART 1: What We Believe

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain what we, at Exceeding Grace Christian Center, believe about the following topics: The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, salvation, sanctification, the rapture

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. _____ – God’s Word, penned by human authors, inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the _____ and infallible source of truth, complete and without any error. (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - a. The Bible is _____ because God was in control of its writing. (Romans 15:4)
 - b. Scriptures gives us _____ and we are sustained that the Lord will see us through.
 - Read Jeremiah 36:20 – 32, which describes the peril of playing with the word of God.
2. _____ – The creator, Sustainer and Ruler of the universe. He eternally exists in three distinct persons: God the Father, God, the Son (Jesus Christ), and God, The Holy Spirit. These three are _____, and are one God. (1 John 5:7)
 - a. The first four words of the Bible, “*In the beginning God...*” form the foundation for faith.
 - b. Believe these words, and you can believe _____ that _____ in the Bible.
 - c. The Bible has a special name for those who choose to deny the fact of God. See Psalm 14:1 & 53:1. The _____ has said in his heart “*There is no God.*”
3. _____ – The Son of God lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect _____ for the sins of all people by dying on a Cross. He was raised from the dead after three days and afterward ascended to Heaven’s glory. Soon, He will return to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords. (Colossians 1:15-20)
 - a. The death of Christ was great enough to pay for the sins of the whole world, but only those who _____ the Lord Jesus as Savior are _____. (See John 1:29)
 - b. God loved us before we _____ to him and gave Jesus Christ as _____ for our sins. (Romans 5:1–11)
4. _____ – He is present in the world to draw men to Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation, providing _____ gifts, power for living, and understanding of spiritual truth, wisdom and guidance. All believers should _____ be filled with the Holy Spirit. (John 16:5–15)
 - a. The Holy Spirit guides us into all _____.
 - b. He will only _____ the things that are given to Him by the Father & Son. (John 16:13, 1 John 4:4; Romans 8:1–32.)

5. _____ – God’s free gift to man that can only be received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as the payment for our sins. Salvation is a fact, not a feeling and is the result of true repentance. For the _____ saved believer, eternal life begins the moment he receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. The genuinely saved believer is sealed by the Holy Ghost. (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30)
- Salvation originates with the _____ of God.
 - The way we receive the _____ of eternal life is through _____. True saving faith is the commitment of a person to a Person. (Romans 9:15)
 - A _____ is a free and unconditional present. The gift of God is salvation by grace through faith and it is offered to all people everywhere. (Romans 11:6)
6. _____ – This is the process whereby we take an active part in separating ourselves from the _____ of the world. We can and must do this with the help of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. (2 Timothy 2:19–22)
- A sanctified person is one _____ from ordinary uses to _____. (Hebrews 2:11)
 - We should be set apart from the _____ by the _____ of _____. (See John 17:17-19)
7. _____ – We believe the Church Age will end with the second coming of Jesus Christ. At that time, believers, both dead and alive, will be “caught away” to join Jesus Christ in the air. We will then live forever with God. We will also witness and _____ in the remaining events that will culminate in the establishment of a New Heaven and a New Earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- When Jesus _____ it will be with great joy and blessings to the Church. (Matthew 25:1-13, Ephesians 5:27)

The WORD of FAITH

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith which we preach..." - Romans 10:8

The teaching at Exceeding Grace Christian Center generally centers around the four exchanges Jesus Christ made available to those who believe on His name. They are:

- _____ for sins – 2 Corinthians 5:21
- _____ for diseases – 1 Peter 2:24
- _____ for poverty – 2 Corinthians 8:9
- _____ for the curse – Galatians 3:13, 14

We believe and teach believers to appropriate these exchanges using faith-filled words (*Mark 11:23*). We believe in **declaring the Word of God** daily, in and over every part of our lives. **Job 22:28** reads, “*You will declare a thing, and it will be established for you...*”

SESSION 8

EGCC, PART 2: What We Practice

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Identify practices and characteristics that demonstrate each of the following values: The Holy Spirit's authority, God's Word, Effectual, fervent, prayer, spiritual and moral integrity, family enrichment, faithful stewardship, evangelism and outreach

Values are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, our church is driven by seven non-negotiable values. These seven values will never change. They are:

OUR VALUE STATEMENTS

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S AUTHORITY

We believe that the Holy Spirit is here to carry out Jesus' ministry through the Church (*John 14:26*). The Holy Spirit is equal with God thus knows the mind and will of God.

Therefore, we are committed to the Spirit's _____. We will operate, worship and do things as He leads. We value spiritual gifts, their operation in our fellowship (*1 Corinthians 12-14*) so we choose HIM over programs, traditions, formalities, denominations or any other authority . . . **BAR NONE!!**

2. GOD'S WORD

We believe that the Bible powerfully declares God's love, grace, and His perfect will for our lives. Paul declared that "...it is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness. (*2 Timothy 3:16*)

Therefore, we are committed to faithfully and reverently _____ the unadulterated Word of God . . . without apology! We are a **full-gospel** church and are committed to teaching and living sound doctrine, "*not after the commandments of men (Mark 7:7)*, but obeying Christ, knowing that "*the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, (1 Timothy 1:5)*."

3. EFFECTUAL, FERVENT PRAYER

We believe that prayer is the tool given to us to _____ with God. The early church maintained the discipline of prayer (*Acts 2:42*), and as a result, they continuously heard from God.

Therefore, we are committed to making prayer a vital part of our personal and corporate lives. *James 5:13 – 18: "pray for the sick and afflicted... The effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous avails much, (vs. 16)."*

4. SPIRITUAL AND MORAL INTEGRITY

According to *John 17:16*, Christians, although "*in the world*", are no longer "*of the world*". Paul says in *Romans 12:2*, "*Be not conformed to this world ...*" The Christian can no longer abide by worldly standards but, "*denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in this present world. (Titus 2:12)*"

Therefore, we are committed to living holy and godly lives so that our witness is effective. "... and let everyone that claims they belong to Christ _____ from wickedness." (*2 Timothy 2:19*)

5. FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Strong families make a strong church and community. God established the family to give us a visual model of His love for the Church (*Ephesians 5:22 – 6:4*). God desires that families will know Him, love Him and serve Him together. (*Deuteronomy 6:4 – 9; Joshua 24:15, Acts 16:31 – 34*).

Therefore, we are committed to building strong, Godly families. In so doing, we become _____ examples to the unbelievers, not only concerning family life, but also “concerning Christ and the Church,” (*Ephesians 5:32*)

6. FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

We believe that a good measure of our growth in Christ is how we give of our possessions. God blesses us for the up building of His Kingdom and not for our selfish lusts, (*II Corinthians 9:8*)

Therefore, we are committed to teaching Christians to willingly and generously sow seed into the Kingdom and how to manage the _____ God entrusts to His people. (*II Corinthians 9:7*).

7. EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

We believe that as result of our conversion, we are compelled to fulfill the mandate of the Church (*Matthew 28:19*) and to labor in the Lord’s harvest (*Matthew 9:38*). We believe that the harvest is ripe already (*John 4:35*) and that we must “occupy until He comes.” (*Luke 19:13*)

Therefore, we are committed to training, _____ and empowering the saints of God to spread the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We will “preach the gospel to every creature,” (*Mark 16:15*), regardless of racial, social, economic, physical or emotional condition. Our desire is that God will work through us to heal, mend, repair and restore broken hearts, broken spirits and broken lives.

NOTES: _____

OUR MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

At **EXCEEDING GRACE CHRISTIAN CENTER**, we teach believers to:

Serve the Lord
Overcome the world,
Advance the Kingdom, and
Reach the Lost.

How do we SERVE THE LORD? (Hebrews 12:28, Colossians 3:23-24)

At Exceeding Grace Christian Center, we serve the Lord through reverential worship, uncompromising obedience to His Word, and complete submission to the Holy Spirit. We are faithful stewards of every resource God entrusts to us, handling all things with honesty, integrity, and excellence. Furthermore, we openly and unapologetically declare that Jesus Christ is King of kings, Lord of lords and the only way to the Father. Ultimately, we make it our aim to demonstrate the love and character of God in all we do and please Him, the great King over all the earth.

How do we OVERCOME THE WORLD? (1 John 5:4-5)

We maintain a warm, loving, family atmosphere where we as believers can be healed when we hurt, strengthened when we are weak, and restored when we fall. At Exceeding Grace Christian Center, we want every believer to come to a full and unshakeable understanding of Kingdom citizenship. We learn that, by faith, we live above the circumstances of this world. Therefore all teaching is designed to empower believers to reign in life and live far above this world system.

How do we ADVANCE THE KINGDOM? (Matthew 24:14)

At Exceeding Grace Christian Center, we believe that every disciple of Jesus Christ has a Kingdom-assignment. Therefore, we seek to help each person identify their natural abilities, skills, and talents, as well as spiritual gifts and endowments. We also provide opportunities for them to be used in the Kingdom of God. We equip disciples with Biblical revelation and impartation that will lead to successful ministry. Ultimately, we want to release trained and equipped Kingdom ambassadors into every mountain of influence in the world.

How do we REACH THE LOST? (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

We believe the proven, most effective means of evangelism is continuous, one-on-one dialogue with those in a believer's circle of influence (*family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.*). We encourage each member to be a shining light in the midst of the darkness and take advantage of opportunities to be visible, active and influential in the world around us. We also send the gospel all over the world through our vibrant media ministry. Additionally, we partner with other ministries dedicated to ministering to the homeless, imprisoned, and disadvantaged all over the world.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OUR ENVELOPE SYSTEM

This system serves a dual purpose. Primarily the envelope enables us to keep accurate financial records for banking and tax compliance purposes. Your monetary gifts are tax-deductible. Your envelope number (*unless otherwise assigned*) is your six-digit date of birth. When properly filled out, your envelope also serves as a “roll call” to help our office track church attendance.

TITHES AND OFFERING BOX

If you are unable to attend a service and would like to give tithe and/or offerings, a collection box is located in the rear hallway, near the Business Office. You can also give securely online at www.exceedinggrace.cc

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS

Exceeding Grace Christian Center’s business office is open Tuesdays - Fridays from 10am-3pm. Contact the church administrator by phone at (727) 323-8278 or by email at admin@exceedinggrace.cc

AUDIO & VIDEO TEACHINGS



All recordings are available FREE through various online services such as SoundCloud, YouTube, Roku, Apple TV, and iTunes as well as on our website at: www.exceedinggrace.cc/media.html. If you desire a CD or DVD copy of one of our teachings, see the Media Team before or after services and they will assist you.

Scan the QR code to the left to visit our website from your mobile device.

STAY INFORMED

There are two primary ways to stay informed about church activities. One, join our email mailing list! Just text **EGCCEMAIL to 22828** to get started. You can also get news on your mobile phone by downloading the **GroupMe** app from your phone’s app store. Then ask a current EGCC member to add you to the EGCC group.



QUICK FACTS ABOUT OUR CHURCH

- FOUNDED:** November 1, 1998, originally named, Souls Harvest Fellowship
- FIRST LOCATION:** 2660 1st Avenue North (home of Deacon Robert & Sis. Pauline Lemon)
- NEXT LOCATION:** March 7, 1999, Dwight Jones Neighborhood Center - 1035 Burlington Avenue North, St. Petersburg
- NEXT LOCATION:** May 7, 2000, rented storefront at 2910 1st Avenue North
- PRESENT LOCATION:** Purchased August 28, 2001 from Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church
- NEW NAME:** On January 5, 2014, Souls Harvest Fellowship became Exceeding Grace Christian Center