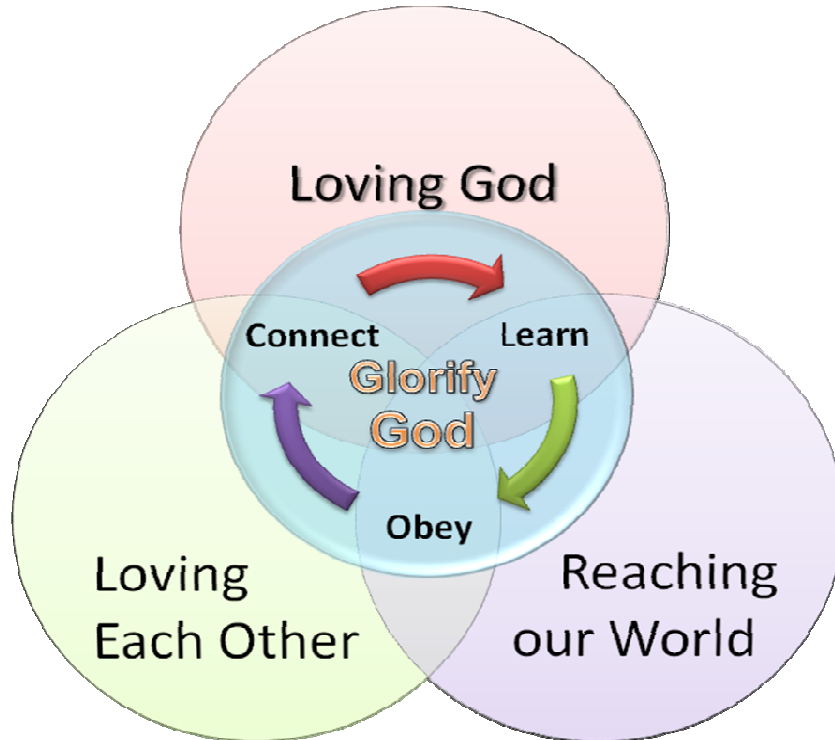


**Sticking with the Mission: “Our Church Exists to Glorify God”
John 15:1-27**

We’ve begun this year by working through our mission statement. A mission statement gives direction and focuses our future. It provides guidelines for decision making and inspires unity. Our mission statement has at the center: “glorify God.” We do this in three primary ways—loving God, loving each other, and reaching our world. Note how each of these three circles overlaps in the center, showing what “glorifying God” looks like. The process of growth in each of these areas is found with Connect, Learn, and Obey.



Abide in Jesus → Bear Fruit → Glorify our Father

Day by Day in the Word

“Day by Day in the Word” is a tool we use to help us in the process of becoming more and more like Jesus and ultimately to bring glory to God. The biblical principle is: The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

What does it mean? (John 15:1-16)

1. How would you describe the relationship between the Father and the Son? (John 15:9-10; 16:27) How does this relationship help us understand the relationship between Jesus and His disciples? How did Jesus remain in the Father’s love? See John 4:34; 5:19-23; 6:38; 8:29, 55; 10:17-18; 12:27-28; 14:31. What does this tell us about our love for Jesus? See John 14:15, 21.
2. Read John 15:11 and focus on the word “joy.” How would you define joy? How does it come about? See John 16:20-22; 17:13. For further work, see Galatians 5:22-23; James 1:2-4.
3. Let’s look at prayer in John 15:7, 16. What does it mean to “abide in me”? What does “My words abide in you” mean? How do these statements relate to prayer? How should they influence what “I wish”? What does God promise with this type of asking? How does this type of prayer bring glory to God? What do you find in v. 16 that will help you understand the phrase “whatever you ask”?

How does it apply?

1. What do you need to do this week in order to develop your love for Jesus? What specific actions do you need to develop? What does this love look like?
2. In what circumstances do you find it hard to love someone? What would loving actions look like in those circumstances? What do you need to specifically do in order to love someone, especially someone who doesn’t love back? Begin this week to love that individual.
3. How would you contrast joy that comes from Jesus and joy that comes from the world? What would you need to do this week in order to develop the joy of the Lord? Is there an attitude that needs to change? Particular actions? What do you perceive to be the obstacles to you being joyful? What do you need to be or do in order to overcome those obstacles?
4. What might “bearing fruit” mean in the context of your small group? What kind of fruit do you see in your group? What can you specifically pray for with regard to fruit?