

## Session 2

### *Making Our Mark*

#### **Making Our Mark**

**We have a saying at Fellowship: “Name nowhere, fingerprints everywhere.” Our desire is to see the heart and soul of Northwest Arkansas and the world changed by Jesus Christ, and we aren’t concerned with who gets the credit. Three key values of our ministry inform how we go about extending our influence for the Kingdom of God in our community and beyond. We are a Christ-centered, celebration/cell church, with a goal of multiplication. Let’s look at each of these values using Fellowships “mark” as our guide.**



### **Christ-centered**

Fellowship's mark is designed to help us easily remember the values that anchor our ministry, beginning with its overall shape: the cross. This reminds us that Christ is at the center of all we do.

This begins with a high view of scripture. As you will see in our doctrinal statement, "We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God, in whole and in part, error-free in the original writings and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ." Jesus Himself said that the Scriptures will point us to Him (Luke 24:27). This places Jesus firmly at the center of our faith, our teaching, and our lives. Our message at Fellowship is the gospel message of Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2, 15:1-8).

We believe the Church belongs to Jesus (Matthew 16:18) and that ultimately we are here to glorify Him and live for Him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). We can do just that because God has given us everything we need in Christ to live out His calling on our lives (2 Peter 1:3). Being Christ-centered means we depend on Christ for all we do (Colossians 2:7), we follow Christ with all we have (Matthew 16:24), and proclaim Christ at every opportunity (Colossians 1:28).



### **Celebration - Cell**

The second value that is reflected in the mark is represented by the large and small segments that form each side. This represents our cell-celebration approach to ministry. Every part of our church is designed to have a large group gathering and a small group component. Celebration-cell, or large group-small group, is at the core of who we are.

**Celebration** refers to corporate gatherings. Our primary celebration opportunity is our large group worship services that take place on each of campuses every weekend. We gather the church to worship the Lord and hear from His Word. Our Celebration services are a rallying point for the people of Fellowship to be encouraged and inspired to go out and express our faith during the week. We will have a more complete discussion of worship in our third small group session, “We Worship Together.” For now, let’s focus on our large group worship gatherings.

Worship is much more than just singing, but often when someone is describing a local church's style of worship, their description turns quickly to style of music. Musical style has been an issue in many churches over the years. At Fellowship, we don't focus on any one particular style of worship music in our corporate gatherings. We appreciate and utilize traditional styles as well as the most current trends in music. We have a very broad body of believers who are diverse in age and tastes. The following captures some of our thinking on this subject:

### **Balanced Thinking On Worship Issues**

Preference ————— Appreciation  
We appreciate all styles of music without demanding our preference all of the time.

Freedom ————— Responsibility  
We express ourselves to God freely without distracting those around us.

Passionate ————— Authentic  
We passionately worship God without the motivation of impressing others.

Excellence ————— Genuine  
We pursue excellence in our services while maintaining a genuine pursuit of glorifying Christ.

**Cell** refers to the small groups that develop within our faith family. Just as a healthy body is made up of healthy cells, the body at Fellowship is composed of small groups, or cells, that meet all over Northwest Arkansas.

A small group is a more intimate gathering where truth, relationships, and accountability are worked out on a regular basis. These take the form of adult community groups, singles groups, student groups (called Cell Groups), children’s groups, recovery groups (called Step Studies), men’s groups, women’s groups, and many other kinds of small gatherings. Fellowship is not a church *with* small groups; we are a church *of* small groups. This is the way we make our large church feel small. This is how each person is known and cared for. The essence of small groups can be captured in three key words:

**Belong**

Healthy community offers a place to know others and to be known in a real, authentic way.

**Grow**

Healthy community offers a place where we feed our souls with the Word of God and are nourished by love and acceptance for and from others.

**Serve**

Healthy community is the place where we are able to serve one another, our neighbors, and perhaps even people we will never meet—all in the name of Jesus Christ.

We will look more closely at cell and community in Small Group Session 2, “We Gather Together.” At Fellowship, small groups and community are at the heart of everything we do, including our strategy to multiply.



**Multiplication** is at the heart of Fellowship’s ministry strategy. We want to see more people following Jesus. We want to see more small groups loving and serving their communities in Jesus’ name. We want to see more churches planted near and far. In short, we want to see the Kingdom of God expanded through multiplication. Notice that the edges of the mark are curved, representing the organic nature of the multiplication. They are also pointed out, emphasizing the outward facing nature of the church. Our mission statement says “...know and express the authentic Christ...”. For us, this means taking the gospel to as many people in as many places as possible so that the message is multiplied and lives are changed for Christ (1 Corinthians 9:22).

The book of Acts details the earliest days of the Christian Church as the gospel takes hold in Jerusalem and spreads throughout the Roman world. Through the first few chapters, we see God adding to their numbers (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14), but then the verb switches. In Acts 6:7 (ESV) we are told “the number of disciples multiplied” greatly in Jerusalem. This multiplication continues through the rest of the book (Acts 9:31, 12:24). You don’t have to be a math major to know that numbers that are multiplied increase much more quickly than through addition.

Paul gives us a snapshot of how the Lord used the early church to multiply disciples. In 2 Timothy 2:2 NIV Paul writes, “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” In that simple statement, Paul mentions four generations. If each of those generations is making disciples who make disciples, we will see not just multiplication but exponential multiplication.

## **Church Practice and Membership**

Fellowship’s core beliefs may be summarized as follows:

We believe in the:

- *Authority of the Scriptures*
- *Triune Godhead (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)*
- *Full deity and full humanity of Christ*
- *Substitutionary atonement of Christ*
- *Salvation by grace, through faith alone, in Christ alone*
- *Virgin birth of Christ, His visible and bodily resurrection, and His visible and bodily return*
- *Priesthood of the believer (every member ministry)*

Fellowship’s full doctrinal statement can be found in Appendix B on page 71.

## **Church Practice**

### **Baptism**

We believe the Scriptures command every believer to be baptized after their conversion to Christ as an outward sign of their inward life-change. Fellowship practices full immersion baptism.

## **Communion**

The Lord's Supper is available each week in our prayer room and is observed regularly (about every six weeks) in the adult celebrations in the Worship Center at each campus.

## **Church Membership**

In order to become a member of Fellowship Bible Church of NWA, we ask that each person fulfill the following expectations:

- *Believe - the Scriptures identify the members of the Body of Christ as those who have responded to the grace of God through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Salvation comes to those who repent from sin and place their faith in Christ's death on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins.*
- *Complete Discover Fellowship - participate in and complete the Discover Fellowship experience.*
- *Share your story - all persons are asked to share their stories of how they came to personally know our Lord. This will be done verbally in our small groups as well as in written form in the membership papers.*
- *Complete the membership papers - our membership papers officially request membership into our family of faith.*
- *Commit - make every effort to live out the expectations of our Membership Covenant found in Appendix D on page 78.*



