

LARGE GATHERINGS

Our Gatherings

CHURCH MINISTRY

Fellowship is structured to be a Celebration/Cell church.
At our core, this is who we are.



CELEBRATION

By celebration, we refer to the corporate worship gathering. We gather the church to worship the Lord and hear from His Word. It is a rallying point for the people of Fellowship which encourages and inspires so that we can go out and express our faith during the week.

Worship defined: Worship is seeing God for who He really is and then giving a proper response.

Worship is not confined to music. Worship is responding to the Lord. Sometimes we respond by singing and sometimes by obedience or making an offering. There are many ways to worship.

Worship is personal. Our time alone with the Lord is an act of worship. (Psalm 46:10)

Worship is corporate. Our time together with the Lord each weekend is worship. (Psalm 100)

Worship is a lifestyle. The way we live, work, spend, and serve is worship. (Romans 12:1-2)

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**WHAT STYLE OF WORSHIP
DOES FELLOWSHIP EMBRACE?**

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 many churches have faced 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 that are diverse in age and tastes. The following captures some of our desired 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

By cell, we refer to the small groups that develop within our faith family. 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, men’s groups, women’s groups... etc. Fellowship is not a church with small groups. We are a church of small groups. This is the way we make our large church

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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 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.

The strategy of our small groups ministry is called R3 and it involves three concepts:

- **REACH** is the first “R” of the R3 vision and includes the concept of evangelism. We want to share Christ with those who do not know Him.
- **REPRODUCE** is the second “R” of the R3 vision for leadership and indicates the process of discipleship by which Christ is reproduced in another person.
- **RELEASE** is the final “R” of R3. It is focused on releasing people into ministry. Once we have REACHED them with the great news of the Gospel, and REPRODUCED Christ in them by the power of the Holy Spirit working, we are ready to RELEASE them to ministry.

We desire to see the R3 strategy worked out through our small group ministries at Fellowship. So there you have it—CELEBRATION/CELL. At our core, this is who we are. A passage that puts the Celebration/Cell philosophy together is found in Acts 2:42-47 (NIV):

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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ *Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

FAMILY

Another important ministry that comes alongside our Celebration/Cell philosophy is our Family ministry. Fellowship has always been a church that wants to support, encourage, and equip families.

Mission: To help families own the spiritual development of the next generation.

- **Marriage**—We offer pre-marital counseling, wedding services, marriage studies, marriage counseling, divorce recovery, and more. (Gen 2:24)
- **Parenting Partnership**—We believe that parents are to be the primary spiritual influence in their children's lives. Evangelism and discipleship are to primarily occur in the home. The church is here to support our parents and partner with them in the spiritual development of their children. (Deut 6:4-8)
- **Children's Ministry**—Our church believes that kids matter to God. Our children's ministry is passionate about kids knowing and experiencing God. The children's ministry team wants to partner with parents in raising up the next generation of spiritual leaders. The team endeavors to provide a safe, fun, loving, and life changing ministry to our children each week. The children's ministry offers a Celebration/Cell model of ministry each Sunday morning in alignment with our adult worship services. Camps, retreats, and other opportunities to participate are provided each

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year. (Early Childhood: birth to 4yrs/Elementary: K - 6th grade)

- **Student Ministry**—Our student ministry believes that students can be world-changing followers of Christ. Our students attend their own worship service each Sunday. Cell groups are also offered in each town for each grade and gender. Camps, retreats, discipleship groups, internships, mission trips, and service opportunities are all a part of this ministry.

CHURCH DOCTRINE

For the full Doctrinal Statement, please see Appendix A.

Core Beliefs—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)

CORE VALUES

Because we value truth, the Bible is our anchor and compass.

Because we value relationships, we love, evangelize, disciple, and serve together in the name of Jesus Christ.

Because we value accountability, we entrust our lives, attitudes, and actions to God and one another.

Because we value the Gospel, Jesus Christ is central to everything we do.

Because we value generosity, we live selflessly through stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

Because we value life-change, we celebrate the transforming power of Christ.

Because we value team, we serve effectively and efficiently through collaboration and cooperation with others.

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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.

** more information about baptism is available on our website or in brochures available in the Worship Center Foyer.*

Communion—The Lord's Supper is available each week in our prayer room, in Community Worship at our NWA campus, and is observed regularly (about every 6 weeks) in the adult celebrations in the Worship Center.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In order to become a member of Fellowship Bible Church, 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 C).