



Spiritual Growth, Renewal, and Outreach Weekend

GROW 2025

MAY 2-4

*Therefore welcome one another as Christ
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Romans 15:7

A WELCOMING GOD, A WELCOMING PEOPLE

Proclaiming the Gospel through Hospitality

SPEAKER: JON REED

EVENT BOOKLET

WELCOME

The most popular verse in the Bible tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God loved us so much that he has sought us out and received us to himself through Jesus the King. The apostle Paul tells us that because the work of Christ on the cross, God has welcomed us, and therefore we ought to also welcome one another for God’s glory (Romans 15:7).

Enjoy the weekend of fellowship, worship, and learning as we remind ourselves that our God is a welcoming God who desires that we also become a welcoming people. This is one of the best ways to demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world: by our hospitality, we welcome them into the kingdom of Jesus Christ so that they can see the goodness of Christ and see their need for the Saviour.

SCHEDULE

Friday, May 2	
6:30 – 7:00 PM	Congregational singing
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Lesson 1: A Welcoming God: Welcome to the Family
Saturday, May 3	
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Congregational singing
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Lesson 2: A Welcoming People: Demonstrating the Gospel to Our Guests (Part 1)
11:30 – 1:00 PM	Soup, Salad, and Pasta Lunch (Complimentary)
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Congregational singing
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Lesson 3: A Welcoming People: Demonstrating the Gospel to Our Guests (Part 2)
Sunday, May 4	
10:00 – 11:30 AM	Worship + Lesson 4 (Sermon): A Story to Share (Mark 5:1-20)



ABOUT JON K. REED

Jon Reed has been the full-time minister of the Hilltop Church of Christ in El Segundo, California, for the past 27 years.

He has had the privilege of training and coaching dozens of churches in Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Washington, Missouri, Oregon, and all over California on hospitality, guest relations, outreach, and evangelism.

His undergraduate studies were done at Pepperdine University and Harding School of Theology. He and Rebecca have been married for 37 years and have two children, Zackery and Jessica.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kids GROW Too and Childcare

Alanna and Kyle Brown

Teens GROW Too

Laurel and Kyle Leung, Keysha and Tyler Gauthier

Fellowship Lunch

Myles and Alisha MacMillan, Joe Lindhorst

Set Up

Central Church Teens

Refreshments

Billy Leung

Registration

Charlotte Kowalson, Selina Leung

Song Leading

Taiwo Akinosho, Dylan Holmberg, Chad Celaire, and Rolly Abaga

Broadcasting

Pat Leung, Idris Onakpoya, Liam Hesketh-Jost, Scott Kowalson

Soundboard

Ehis Osarhemen, Thompson Luro, Fisayo Akinbolusere,
Tunde Bada

Ushers

Oshokenoya Monofi, Roland Ekere

Name Tags

Pat Leung

Event Booklet

Melanie Hobbs

LESSON NOTES

Friday, May 2 (Lesson 1)

³⁴ When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34 NIV

"Accepting people where they are while helping each other accept where God wants us to be."

Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”
“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

John 8:2-11 NIV



Video excerpt from “Antwone Fisher”

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jTQMR1IsiGw>

Welcome to the Family



*How to greet guests,
welcome strangers,
and follow-up so they
will want to keep
coming back.*

LESSON NOTES

Saturday, May 3 (Lessons 2 and 3)

³³"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."
Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)

God tells us how to treat guests

1. Hospitality means _____

- Do not _____
- Treat guests _____
- Love guests _____
- Remember _____

2. Terms create powerful _____

3. All churches believe they are _____

Rule of thumb: If guests that come to our church don't think we're friendly, _____!

4. Without guests, a church cannot _____

Four Percentages of Effective Assimilation

75% _____

35% _____

40% _____

80% _____

Understanding the Sticky Factor

The number one reason guests stay is if they think they can make a _____.

Top Ten VIPs (Very Important Points)

1. The new front door of the church is _____
2. Walking to the _____
3. Offering a _____ and

4. Entering the _____
5. Meeting _____
6. Entering the _____
7. Participating in the _____
8. Exiting the _____
9. Making sure to _____
10. Contact the _____

Seven ways to welcome guests to church

1. Invite your _____ with a personal invitation.
2. Arrive _____ to make sure everything is ready for your guest's arrival.
3. Greet guests warmly at the _____ and escort them to their seats.
4. Help guests _____ what is taking place.
5. Anticipate and answer as many _____ as possible in advance so guests do not have to ask.
6. Do something _____ to make guests' visit special.
7. As guests leave, be sure to _____
for coming and _____

How to Follow-up with Guests Appropriately

1. The principle of “Suspects and Prospects”

Suspects are _____

Prospects are _____

2. Three Principles of Follow-up

Follow-up is most effective when guests receive the following:

A _____ contact.

A _____ contact.

A _____ contact.

3. A Four-Step Plan

Step 1: _____ the Guests

- _____ within 2 days
- _____ and

_____ to return.

- Ask if they _____

Step 2: _____ the Guests

- _____ a special gift to their house
- Ask about their _____

Step 3: _____ the Guests

- _____ to a leader's luncheon
- Clarify _____
- Explain the _____

Step 4: _____ the Guests

- Clarify _____
- Encourage them to _____
- Honour them with an _____

GROW 2025 EVALUATION FORM

Please take the time to complete the GROW 2023 evaluation form to help ensure that we continually improve this annual event. There should be a paper copy of the evaluation form placed inside this booklet, but if you need another copy, please see the Registration Desk in the church foyer. Place the completed evaluation form in the box on the Registration Desk.

You can also fill out the evaluation form online by scanning this QR code:



LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR GROW 2026 – MAY 2-4

**Theme – “Disciple Making: The Core
Mission of the Church”**

**Speaker: Anthony Walker, Minister at Highway 231
Church of Christ (Murfreesboro, Tennessee)**

ABOUT CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

OUR MISSION: *Grow disciples who make disciples.*

The church's mission is God's biblically derived, non-negotiable, universal imperative for his people. Because God calls all people to join him in his work of restoring his creation to himself, Central church exists to carry out Jesus' mission to make and mature disciples for the glory of God. God's plan is to save and restore humanity to himself for his glory through Jesus' work on the cross (Ephesians 1:10-12). For this reason, we wholeheartedly believe that this is also our purpose and ultimate goal according to Jesus Christ himself (Matthew 28:18-20). In other words, everything that we do seeks to mature our individual members so that they too can share in the mission of Jesus to bring others in a saving relationship with God (Colossians 1:28; Matthew 4:19; 1 Timothy 2:3b-4).

OUR VISION: *Share the love and good news of Jesus to every person in Winnipeg.*

The church's vision is a realistic, credible, attractive future that Central church of Christ yearns for God to bring about as we participate in his mission to restore humanity to himself. As every member of our church family becomes spiritually mature in Jesus, we trust God to do his work through us as we, individually and collectively, share the love of Jesus to every person on earth. We will begin with those who are closest to us - our own families and friends - and then our local community, so that every person we encounter has the opportunity to

choose to give their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, as is the will of God for every person from every nation, tribe, and language (2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 7:9). We believe that God the Father through Jesus Christ his Son, will empower us by the Holy Spirit to become the salt and light that he wants us to be for this world, maturing us into becoming “fishers of men and women” as instruments of his salvation (Matthew 4:19; 5:13-16).

OUR CORE VALUES: *Faithfully loving, serving, and growing in community.*

At the heart of what we do are the following core values that can be summed up in the following slogan: “Faithfully loving, serving, and growing in community.” These core values emphasize our beliefs and are the key ways in which we live out our mission and vision in Jesus Christ.

- 1. Faithful obedience to Jesus and his word.** Jesus Christ is central at the Central church of Christ! We strive to center our identity on King Jesus and his gospel.
- 2. Loving and serving as members of one family.** God has gathered us into his family as brothers and sisters where we manifest our love for God, for one another, to our local community, and to the world through service.
- 3. Growing in community.** Obedience to Jesus, loving like him, and serving in his kingdom are the key elements of our discipleship, which can only be done effectively as we grow in relationship with God and with one another.

At the heart of our core values are these three key actions found within our slogan that we strive to faithfully live out:

LOVE. The greatest commandment is love for God and for people (Matthew 22:34-40). We seek to obey this commandment on a regular basis as we serve and worship God and deepen our relationship with one another through small groups throughout the week. Small Groups (throughout the week) | Bible Study Groups (Sunday mornings)

SERVE. Our goal is spiritual maturity (Colossians 1:28-29), demonstrated by following Jesus and becoming like him (Galatians 2:20). Jesus came to earth to serve and to give (Matthew 20:28) and so it is also our aim to serve and to give as Jesus Christ did (John 13:15). Give to the Church | Tache Food Bank | Clothing Room | Local Outreach Ministry | Missions Ministry

GROW. God calls us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). We aim to faithfully live out this command by studying and living out God’s word in community. We invite you to join any of our small groups that meet regularly as well as our large group events: Sunday morning Bible Study Classes | Young Couples and Families | Young Adults | Teens | 55+ Group | Small Groups | Celebrate Recovery | Women’s Groups | Men’s Groups | Annual Events (GROW, Mountain Men, Youth Ski Retreat, Kids’ Rally, Young Adult Weekend)





CENTRAL

CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

Love. Serve. Grow.