

Belong

MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND



APRIL 2017

THE PASTOR'S LETTER

Welcome Bible Center Friends...

We are so glad you're here! Your presence is an evidence of God's grace to us.

Since 1943, Bible Center has been following Jesus. What started with a handful of people in homes and storefronts has become a beautiful testimony to the gospel. Only eternity will reveal the countless people who have found a place to worship, belong, and serve at Bible Center.

Our mission is simple: Glorifying God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus.

Together, we desire to share the gospel, feed the hungry, restore relationships, care for widows, point kids and students to Jesus, and worship God in spirit and in truth. We don't care whether you're a Republican or Democrat, blue collar or white collar. God is calling women and men of all ethnicities, cultures, political persuasions and economic backgrounds to become one in Jesus.

We have designed this weekend to give you a brief overview of our history, vision, mission and values. We also want to give you all the resources necessary for making a membership commitment. Joining a church is a huge decision! We want to walk you through every step of the way.

Lastly, please feel free to ask questions. Bible Center has always been a place where you can bring your questions, concerns and suggestions. Please let us come alongside you in this journey.

For the city,



Matt Friend, *Senior Pastor*



WEEKEND SCHEDULE



Friday

- 6:00 PM Check-in Opens & Snacks
- 6:20 PM Childcare Check-in
- 6:30 PM Welcome
- 7:00 PM Session 1: Gospel-Fueled Vision
- 7:30 PM Session 2: Our History
- 8:00 PM Session 3: Staff Ministry Team Q & A (1.0)
- 8:30 PM Benediction & Child Pick-Up

Saturday

- 8:30 AM Breakfast & Childcare Check-in
- 8:45 AM Welcome
- 9:00 AM Session 4: Worship @ BCC
- 9:30 AM Session 5: Belong @ BCC
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:10 AM Session 6: Serve @ BCC
- 10:40 AM Session 7: What We Teach
- 11:10 AM Session 8: Meaningful Membership
- 11:40 AM Session 9: My Next Step
- 12:00 PM Session 10: Lunch & Staff Ministry Team Q & A (2.0)
- 1:00 PM Benediction & Child Pick-Up

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Session #1

OUR GOSPEL-FUELED VISION

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

– Paul, 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-2

What’s “under the hood” matters most to a car enthusiast. The engine drives everything else. The same is true for the Gospel. A Gospel-driven church is motivated by Jesus’ Good News more than preferences or personalities. If you “pop the hood” of Bible Center, you will find that the Gospel drives everything.

“The truth of the Gospel is the principal article of all Christian doctrine.” – Martin Luther

What is the Gospel? It simply translates as “Good News.” It’s an announcement of all God has done and will do.

At Bible Center, we like to refer to the Gospel with two perspectives: zoomed-in and zoomed-out.

The Gospel Zoomed-In *(1 Corinthians 15:1-4)*

1. Christ died for our sins (proven by His burial)
2. Christ raised for our eternal life (proven by His appearances)

A simpler definition: *God saves sinners.*

A broader definition: *The Gospel is the Good News that the living God, who demands perfection of all humankind, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world, to live a sinless life, to suffer and die on the cross as a substitute for our sins (absorbing the judgment we rightfully deserve), to rise again, to ascend back into heaven, and to grant forgiveness, righteousness, His Spirit, and eternal life at the moment anyone repents and believes.*

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Session #1

OUR GOSPEL-FUELED VISION

"The Gospel is something that God has accomplished. It's not something that we do. Our faith is not the Gospel. Our repentance is not the Gospel. But they are the effects of it. So we could say that the Gospel is an indicative, not an imperative. In other words, it's an accomplishment by God; it's not a command to us. The Gospel is what God has achieved, not something that we are to attempt." – **Sam Storms**

At Bible Center, we strive to *not* reduce the Gospel to...

Formalism. . . . Church activities and service only

Legalism. . . . Performing good works only

Mysticism. . . . Emotional and spiritual experiences only

Activism. . . . Participation in Christian causes only

Biblicism. . . . A mastery of content and theology only

Psychology-ism. . . . The healing of emotional needs only

Social-ism. . . . A network of fulfilling relationships only

The Gospel Zoomed-Out (*Colossians 2:11-23*)

The whole Bible is about one big story...

1. **God created us** (*2:15-19*).

Creation describes how life was meant to be lived. It provides us with a glimpse into what holy (holistic) living looks like from God's perspective, according to His intentions (*Genesis 1-2*).

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" – **Abraham Kuyper**

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2. Sin broke us (2:13-14, 21).

In Genesis 1-2, God creates the world and says, "It's good." What Adam and Eve experienced up until that point was *shalom*: peace, universal flourishing, wholeness and delight. Everything was in harmony with God.

However, their sin threw sand in the gears. *Shalom* was shattered: physically, spiritually, socially, psychologically, and culturally. Ever since, things have been falling apart. This explains how life became the distorted mess that it is today. It demonstrates why things are not the way they are supposed to be (*Genesis 3*).

3. Jesus saves us (2:15-19).

The story of salvation shows how we find meaning in this life and find eternal life through Jesus Christ. It explains the way back to holiness and wholeness. This is the subject matter of most of the Bible (*Genesis 4 to Revelation 18*). From cover to cover, the Bible unfolds the dramatic story of how salvation came through Jesus Christ. (*John 5:39-40; Luke 24:25-27; Luke 24:44-47*).

4. Jesus will heal us (2:20-23).

Revelation 19-22 points to a future restoration. Because of Jesus' resurrection, God is using this journey through life to prepare us for His perfect presence. In that place there will be no sickness, sin, or despair for all eternity (*Revelation 19-22*).

The emphasis of verse 20 is much more than our individualized salvation. The cross was certainly our bridge to God, but it was much more than that. It is the bridge to the restoration of all things. Because Jesus died on the cross and was raised, He promises that creation itself will be healed in the future. Romans 8 reminds us that Jesus will restore all things to Himself. No more: hurricanes, blizzards, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, cancer, diabetes, or abuse.

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Session #1

OUR GOSPEL-FUELED VISION

Summary

Remember how the Bible started in Genesis? Two people in a perfect garden. They rebelled and were cast out of the garden. Yet, in God's love, He created a way of salvation for those people, symbolized first in the Old Testament sacrifices but fulfilled in Jesus himself. Thankfully the Bible promises that God will restore all things better than they were in the Garden of Eden. How is this possible? Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross!

Why is it important that we maintain a holistic view of the Gospel? Because it reminds us that God wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, and those who believe will be united with him forever in a renewed heaven and earth.

The driving force of Bible Center Church is to see the Gospel transform everything—ourselves, our families, our church, our city, and our world. From this vision flows our mission, vision and strategy...

Our Gospel-Driven Mission

**TO GLORIFY GOD BY PRODUCING
MORE MATURING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

Our Gospel-Driven Vision

**TO BE A CHURCH
CHARLESTON CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT**

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Our Gospel-Driven Discipleship Strategy

Worship

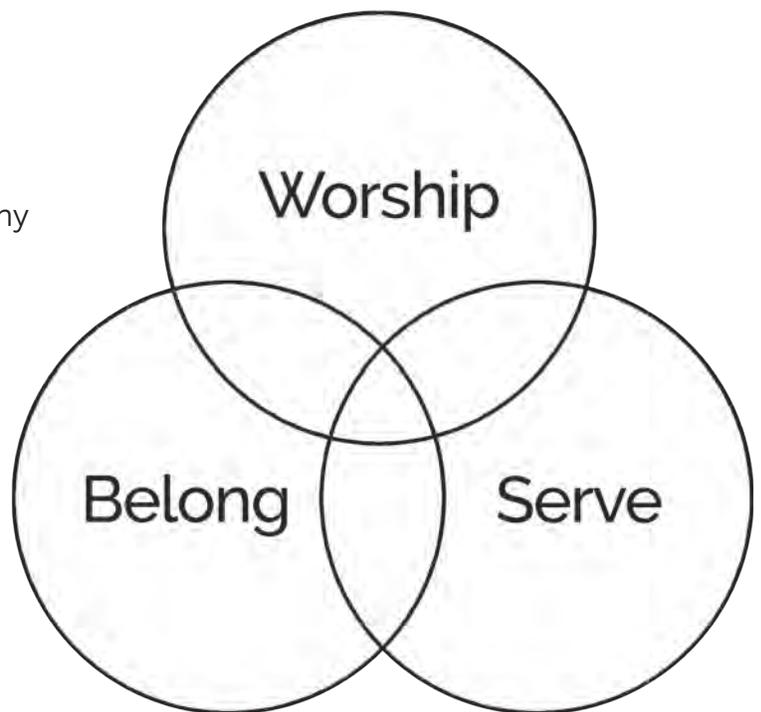
Join us for a Sunday worship service.

Belong

Find deep community in one of our many groups.

Serve

Enjoy using your God-given gifts where you are needed.



Discussion Questions

What brought you to Bible Center?

What do you hope to learn over the next two days?

What part of Bible Center's mission, vision and strategy most resonates with you?

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“So those who received His Word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

—Dr. Luke, ACTS 2:41-47

Early Beginnings

It all started in 1918 when Mr. R. M. Maxwell, an entrepreneurial son of a Kansas farmer, stepped off the train in Charleston to begin his career.

Location #1: St. Albans (1935)

After recovering from typhoid fever, Mr. Maxwell rapidly grew in the faith. Growing weary of his denomination that questioned the authority of God’s Word, Mr. Maxwell launched out with a small band of believers and started his own Bible study in 1935. While the exact room is unknown, it was



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Session #2

OUR HISTORY

located somewhere near the intersection of Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in St. Albans, West Virginia.

Location #2: South Charleston (1937)

In 1937, a group of Christian businessmen, with Mr. Maxwell, sponsored a tent meeting in South Charleston to reach others with the gospel. When the tent meetings concluded, Mr. Maxwell formed small groups of Bible studies to establish the new believers in the faith. One group began meeting on 2nd Avenue in South Charleston in the basement of Mr. and Mrs. John Overley's home.



Location #3: Capitol Street, Charleston (1938)

Within a year, the Bible study grew too large for the Overley's basement, so Mr. Maxwell invited the group to meet in his People's Store on Capitol Street. At first they met on the ground floor in the shoe department. When they outgrew that part of the store, they moved upstairs to the ladies' department where clothing racks could be easily moved to accommodate the crowd. When Mr. Maxwell's competitor, James Cash Penney (J. C. Penney) came to town, he visited Mr. Maxwell's Sunday Bible study at his store.

Location #4: 1006 Virginia Street (1940)

In 1940, Mr. Maxwell sold his department store to Stone & Thomas; therefore, a new location for the Bible study had to be acquired. Even though he continued as President and General Manager, he didn't feel right about hosting the Bible study in that location. The group began renting a small storefront at 1006 Virginia Street, a former tailor shop across from where the Charleston Gazette is located now. That storefront has since been destroyed by fire, but it was located somewhere between the current WV Junior College and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. God used Mr. Maxwell's generosity, primarily from the sale of his store, to sustain and launch a new church.

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Growth

Location #5: Corner of Hale Street & Virginia Street, Charleston (1942)

By the fall of 1942, the Bible study group moved a block down the street, beside the Southside Bridge, at the corner of Hale and Virginia Street (in the same building where City National Bank is currently located). This is where they held their first official church service on Sunday, March 7, 1943. Although they didn't record an official charter membership until 1947, Bible Center dates its beginning to that first worship service in this location. This new church called its first Senior Pastor in 1943: Reverend Reid Jepson.



Location #6: 419 Broad Street, Charleston (1945)

In the fall of 1945, the new church bought their first home with the help of Mr. Maxwell's estate. It was a house located at 419 Broad Street (since been renamed to Leon Sullivan Way). The house once stood near to where the Union Mission Crossroads Men's Shelter is now. The first service was held there on

October 14, 1945. In March of 1947, the church officially organized as The City Bible Center, formed a constitution, and recorded a charter membership.

Location #7: 1418 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Charleston (1956)

Due to the rapid growth on Broad Street, the City Bible Center purchased property at 1418 Kanawha Boulevard, East and constructed a new building, ready for worship by 1956. The church met here for twenty years, under the leadership of its first three Senior Pastors: Reid Jepson (1943-1958), Charles Hendricks (1961-1968), and Bob Spradling (who arrived in September of 1968). The building still stands.



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OUR HISTORY

And Now

Location #8: 1111 Oakhurst Drive, Charleston (1976)

As the congregation grew, the location on Kanawha Boulevard reached its capacity. Additional adjoining property was purchased, but facilities were still inadequate for the growing congregation. In 1973, Pastor Spradling led the church to purchase 8.5 acres on Rt. 214 South (what is now Rt. 119/Corridor G, the property now occupied by Bible Center School across from Kroger and Ashton Place). Pastor Spradling announced his retirement in 1994. After several years of interim pulpit supply, the church called Shawn Thornton as its fourth Senior Pastor in September, 1997.



Location #9: 100 Bible Center Drive, Charleston (2008-Present Day)

In 2004, through Pastor Shawn's vision for gospel expansion, the church purchased 96 acres further down Corridor G, within sight of the popular Southridge Shopping Center. We moved into our new Worship Center in the spring of 2008 and were able to build even more ministry space to sustain a congregation in excess of 3,000.



In accordance with our vision, our land can accommodate not only our church, but also our school and preschool, a large student center for our teens, picnic grounds, recreation facilities, state-of-the-art ball fields, a ministry village complete with a counseling center, a wedding chapel, and a retirement community.

Pastor Shawn accepted the call to pastor another church in Westlake Village, CA in July 2008, but the vision has not diminished. Pastor Eric Mounts picked up the torch as Senior Pastor from 2011-2015, and Pastor Matt Friend was installed as Bible Center's 6th Senior Pastor in March 2016.

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Our official business name remains as "The City Bible Center." Nevertheless, we most commonly use our culturally-given name, "The Bible Center Church." We are a non-denominational, independent, evangelical church.

Let's Remember...

God's work is not primarily about bricks, budgets, carpet, or steel. It's about people. All the rest is important, but is only used to serve people.

How did we get here? Because way back in 1918, an ambitious business man moved to Charleston from Kansas to begin his career. He initially lived distracted by the American dream until God allowed him to contract typhoid fever. Through that experience and a friend's testimony, he found Jesus and set the Kanawha Valley ablaze with the gospel.

Imagine bringing Mr. Maxwell back from heaven and asking him, "How did you do what you did? Why did you do what you did?" His answer would certainly be Bible-centered and point to God's amazing grace.

May God use us to produce more maturing followers of Jesus for his glory!

Discussion Questions:

What part of the Bible Center story impacted you the most?

Do you recognize any of these locations?

Why is it important to remember our past?

Session #3
STAFF Q & A (1.0)



1. What do each of you do at BCC?
2. What ministries do you offer at BCC?
3. What are the primary information streams for those who want to stay connected at BCC?
4. What is Right Now Media?

What other questions are on your mind?

Session #4

WORSHIP @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH



*“One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of Your mighty acts.”*

–King David, PSALM 145:4

Life is all about worship. This includes participating in a worship service (such as listening to a sermon, singing, reading the Bible, praying, taking communion and giving); however, it's much more than any of these. God also invites us to worship Him when we eat, drink, go to work, hunt, fish, cook, read a book, or have coffee with a friend ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)).

The word “worship” comes from an older concept of “worthship”—to show honor to someone, namely God. In the Old Testament, it usually refers to bowing down with reverence. The New Testament urges us to glorify God—to give the accurate opinion of God to others, to hold Him in proper esteem. Theologian John Witvliet defines worship as, “the celebrative response to what God has done, is doing, and promises to do.”

We see worship all the way back in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were tasked with expanding God's dominion over the entire earth ([Genesis 1:28](#)). They weren't leading worship services, but were farming and building. Had someone asked Adam and Eve, “When do you worship God?” they might've replied, “When do we not?”

However, this session primarily addresses our worship services. Why do we have a unified worship format in all services? What ingredients are baked into each worship service?

We have one worship format in all services because...

1. It shows family unity ([Ephesians 4:2-6](#)).

The worship service has always been about the family of God assembling to remember God's grace through the ages ([Psalm 67:1-2](#); cf. [Numbers 6:24-26](#); [Genesis 12:2-3](#)). Bible Center has a robust ministry plan for all ages and most demographics (children, students, senior saints, and so on); however, Sunday morning is when most of us come together.

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2. It pictures the gospel (*Colossians 2:13-16*).

The gospel story is a worship story. It's a story that surprises us when we discover that it's not primarily about us, but about God. Our Sunday worship experiences are beautiful! Where else would this diverse group of people gather weekly with an eternal goal in common? Only the gospel could obliterate so many social, political, ethnic and cultural barriers. Therefore, our goal is to create gospel-shaped worship gatherings that rehearse God's creation, our sinfulness, Jesus' salvation and future restoration in the new heavens and new earth.

3. It gives us a better picture of heaven (*Revelation 5:9-10*).

In the new heavens and new earth, we will worship with a diverse group of people with assorted preferences. They will not all look like us or be from a similar culture. Attending worship services where not everything reflects my own preferences helps me rehearse for heaven. Pointing to this habit-forming reality, the ancient church recited, "*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*," which essentially means, "So we pray, so we believe." The same could apply to our singing, our giving, our liturgy, and so on.

4. It reminds us that God's church is multigenerational (*Psalms 145:4*).

Dividing services into traditional or contemporary styles was a trend at the turn of the century, but now churches are returning to a multi-generational worship format. Rainer writes, "Placating musical preferences created a generational divide in many churches."

What's our goal? We want to be a church where grandchildren enjoy worshipping with their grandparents. Most grandparents who attend a typical church in Appalachia would love to have their grandkids attending with them; however, many churches in our region sit empty on Sunday mornings because someone made the choice to prioritize a model that spoke to past generations but ignored future generations. We want to be a church where all generations can worship, belong and serve. The young need to be challenged by the faith of the old, and the old need to be encouraged by the faith of the young.

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5. God has left us here to reach our neighbors for Christ, even with our church services
(1 Corinthians 14:24-25).

Thousands in the Kanawha Valley have never known the joy of worshipping God. We must constantly think, “How can we reach them?” In 1 Corinthians 9:22, Paul strived to be “all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” The greatest missionaries in history surveyed their culture and asked, “How can I translate the gospel to the most people within this culture and remove distractions from the gospel?”

Some churches accumulate around smaller worship styles: cowboy churches, classical churches, gospel hip-hop churches, and so on. However, these are most often found in large cities and target specific neighborhoods, some which have populations larger than all of Charleston. We’ll continue hosting genre-specific outreach events (classical events, gospel hip-hop concerts, and more); however, God is calling us to think like missionaries and design our Sundays to reach as many people as possible.

6. It reminds us weekly to defer to others’ preferences, more than we love our own
(Romans 12:10).

Everyone has a favorite musical style, dress code, and volume. Instead of trying to find a happy medium and create a blended format, we prefer to describe our worship services as diverse and varied. Food squashed in a blender seldom looks appealing; however, most of us appreciate a full-course meal with a variety of colors, textures and tastes. Likewise, we can each enjoy some aspects of the service, while tolerating others, by remembering we are not the only one in the room. Jesus modeled deference for us *(Philippians 2:1-11)*.

7. We can be better stewards of resources, using them for more than one service
(1 Corinthians 4:2).

Coordinating 52+ corporate worship services per year is a joyful—but daunting—task. Hosting two different styles of worship services each Sunday doubles that number to 104 per year. Having one set of instrumentalists, one worship choir, one worship

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band—all working together on one format allows us to be better stewards of God's resources. Also, we are convinced our worship leaders serve with greater excellence when they work together. This will also allow us to easily add more worship services as our church grows.

8. We can minister to people between services instead of transitioning equipment (*Hebrews 10:24-25*).

Our worship team is now thrilled to have more time between services to love people.

Our services include the following ingredients...

1. An emphasis on the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 5:18-21*)

In the Scriptures and throughout church history, the dynamic love between the Holy Trinity has been accentuated because it is the same love that flows to and through us.

2. Bible-centered, relevant teaching, preaching and music (*1 Timothy 4:2*)

All sermons and songs point to the gospel, for only in Christ can one find eternal salvation and lasting transformation.

3. Public Scripture readings (*1 Timothy 4:13*)

Bible Center will always remain Bible-centered. We accomplish this by: asking various members to read the Scriptures prior to the sermon, publishing the Scriptures on the large screens, and doing responsive Scripture readings together as a congregation.

4. A reputation for excellence (*Philippians 4:8*)

This stems from adequate preparation of the worship leaders both spiritually and logistically. Platform leaders will be well-prepared.

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5. More and more singing (*Colossians 3:16*)

The call to sing occurs over 100 times in Psalms alone. Our worship team is asking more and more, “Is this song singable?” We want to design our worship services to include as much singing as possible in 65-70 minutes.

6. A wide variety of songs (*Colossians 3:16*)

Paul urges us to sing all types of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We want to grow in our use of ancient and robust hymns. Likewise, we will utilize modern hymns, written by modern theological stalwarts. We will also utilize modern and popular spiritual songs that can be heard on the radio. Some may employ repetition, as does Psalm 136 (which repeats the same phrase 26 times), the Hallelujah Chorus, or the words “Holy, Holy, Holy” in Isaiah 6.

7. A wide variety of musical styles (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*)

We no longer describe our services as Traditional or Contemporary, but utilize all styles in various ways to accentuate the message and mood of that Sunday’s sermon. A. B. Simpson, the founder of the Christian Missionary Alliance, once said, “Popular music is the heart of the people.”

8. Energy and passion (*Colossians 3:23*)

By God’s grace, we will continue pouring hours and days into the design of each worship service, knowing that God wants us to seek Him with all our hearts. All platform leaders desire to exude strength and joy.

9. Pre-planned pastoral prayers (*Ephesians 1:17-19; 3:14-19; Philipians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-14*)

The Spirit can often lead us to pray spontaneous prayers. However, we will also seek his leadership earlier each week in order to lead the people in meaningful, prepared prayers that aid in our spiritual maturity and awe of God.

10. Prayers for community and national leaders (*1 Timothy 2:1-8*)

We desire to be more engaged in our city and county, occasionally praying public prayers for our leaders.

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WORSHIP @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

11. Generous giving (*Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 2 Corinthians 8-9*)

We give our offerings in response to God's grace to us. Our Father is the giver of all things, so our resources do not belong to us but to him. Because we have been given much, and because we believe in the work of the church, we give money to advance the gospel, both locally and globally.

12. A variation in volume

Because good music is dynamic, we strive to lead worshippers in a healthy ebb and flow, both in decibels and fullness. The Bible speaks of loud, percussion-like, crashing cymbals (*Psalms 68:25; 81:2; 149:3; 150:3-6*), while the Bible also reminds us that God sometimes speaks in a still small voice (*1 Kings 19:11-13; Psalm 46:10*).

13. A freedom for appropriate physical expression

The Psalms are filled with examples of clapping, singing, bowing, kneeling, lifting hands, shouting, playing instruments, and standing in awe. Our worship leaders will recognize these freedoms, so long as they draw attention to God and are authentic to the worshipper. The Next Steps Time at the end is another avenue where some may choose to kneel at the front or at their seat.

14. Call to worship

A pastor begins each service with a reminder that God calls us to focus on Him. As God's sheep, we are reminded that the Shepherd seeks us.

15. Celebratory feel

God is far more loving than we can ever imagine. Because of God's good news in Christ, we want our services to feel welcome and uplifting to all.

16. Moments of silence

We will continue incorporating times for silent prayer, expression of grief or repentance from sin.

17. Communion

These symbols remind us that Christ's death on the cross—His broken body and shed blood—was necessary and sufficient to pay for our sins. Jesus makes a way for us

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to be right with God and each other. We look forward to Christ's return just as He promised on the night of His betrayal.

18. Baptisms

Each baptism reminds us of our association with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. We all baptize together saying, "**We** baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." This shows that baptism was a rite given to the entire church.

19. Stories of gospel success

We strive to weave a gospel success story into each worship service, with a balance of global and local emphasis. Some Sundays include a story from a global partner; others involve a local story from one of our staff or members.

20. Pastoral warmth

Platform leaders will exude warmth and connection, joy and strength. Since most communication is non-verbal, we continually help each other improve in our overall platform demeanor. We want our presence and countenance to say, "Everyone is welcome here—all ages, all ethnicities, all cultures. You are safe. You are among family."

21. Participation, not performance

We desire our worship services to feel more like a banquet hall (a communal gathering where everyone participates in and shares a meal), and less like a concert hall (where passive observers critique without participation).

22. A variation of both emotional and cognitive elements (*John 4:24*)

Jesus invites us to worship in spirit and in truth. Jonathan Edwards, a Puritan pastor, wrote, "The duty of worshipping God is given wholly to excite and express religious affections. There is no other reason why we should express ourselves to God in verse rather than in prose and with music, except that these things have a tendency to move our affections."

23. A gracious and generous spirit towards people who are not like us (*Colossians 3:8-15*)

Church history proves that division over worship style is not new. Martin Luther, who lived over 500 years ago, expressed strong and insulting opinions about his own

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preferences. Churches in the American colonies argued over whether or not songs should be sung with accompaniment. British churches debated whether or not only Psalms should be sung, or if newer “liberal” hymns could be employed from men like Isaac Watts.

24. A variation involving our band, choir, smaller groups and instrumentalists

In an effort to minimize the use of soundtracks (or to keep them in the background), our own band and instrumentalists will increasingly anchor worship services, combining various other components in rotation (choir at least twice per month, strings, brass and more).

25. A relaxed atmosphere (*1 Timothy 4:4; Romans 14:17*)

We will point out God’s goodness in the simplest of pleasures, such as people being welcome to enjoy their coffee in the worship center, or to wear whatever is closest to their authentic self (jeans, suit & tie, dress, pants).

26. Minimal announcements

As our church grows large, other communication venues will become more prominent (colorful bulletin, phone app, website, class/group specific announcements). Fewer announcements will be mentioned from the platform to allow more time for other worship elements. Most verbal announcements will be church-wide.

27. Volunteer opportunities

We desire our worship services to feel more participatory, engaging, and experiential for all. This begins by creating as many volunteer opportunities as possible for men and women of all ages to serve in our services (musicians, First Impressions, Scripture readers, AVL technicians, prayers, ushers, coffee servers, etc.).

28. Respect of physical limitations

To be mindful of our older saints, we strive to leave the congregation standing no more than two or three regular-length songs in a row.

29. Visual arts

In the spirit of variety, we enjoy the creative use of videos, art, props, drama and technology—as long as they enhance the Biblical message.

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30. Benediction

This is a traditional “blessing for the road.” As we prepare to go out from the church gathered, we acknowledge that we go out with a mission—to be continually transformed by the gospel and to see that gospel transform the Kanawha Valley.

Discussion Questions:

What have you enjoyed most about our worship services?

With which aspects of the weekly liturgy impact you the most?

What are some ways members could better prepare for Sunday worship gatherings?

Session #5

BELONG @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH



"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."

– JOHN 17:20-21

To how many groups do you belong? How many memberships do you have? From Kroger to Sam's to Nautilus to AutoZone, companies today understand the value of belonging.

Belonging is core to our humanity and our happiness. Way down deep we desire to belong to something bigger than ourselves.

What is belonging?

"To belong is to be related to and a part of something. It is membership, the experience of being at home. It is the opposite of thinking that wherever I am, I would be better off somewhere else. Or that I am still forever wandering, looking for that place where I belong. The opposite of belonging is to feel isolated and always an outsider. To belong is to know, even in the middle of the night, that I am among friends." – **Peter Block**

Think about your favorite friend's house or a close relative's home. Why is it so enjoyable to visit there? What freedoms do you appreciate that inspire you to want to come back?

For centuries, Christians have not only gathered on Sundays for worship but also scattered throughout their cities to meet in homes. We need more Christian interaction than a once a week worship service. Therefore, we are always trying to create more groups at Bible Center—more personal places of belonging. As we grow larger, we also want to grow smaller.

NOTES

We currently offer 3 kinds of groups

- **ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS** – meet on campus, usually on Sunday mornings during one of the services
- **COMMUNITY GROUPS** – meet in homes on just about any night of the week
- **GENDER-SPECIFIC GROUPS** – Our ManUp! and Women’s Ministry groups meet throughout the city in different formats on different days of the week.

Why do we encourage you to jump into a smaller group? Because...

#1. Discipleship happens best in smaller groups.

Think about how Jesus discipled others. He didn’t write a curriculum for His followers to complete in three years. Actually, He drew close with twelve of them, invested in their lives, and sent them out to disciple others.

While in a group, Jesus...

- Shared truth to impact the thinking of their heads.
- Showed God’s nature to impact the faith of their hearts.
- Shepherded with good works to impact the skill of their hands.

After three years, eleven of Jesus’ disciples went out to change the world with the gospel and good works. They invested in others, who invested in others, who invested in others, until one of those followers (two millennia later) eventually invested in you.

LET US HELP YOU FIND BELONGING IN A BIBLE CENTER GROUP!

- » Check out all your options at BibleCenterChurch.com/groups.
- » Contact Sheri Skidmore (SSkidmore@BibleCenterChurch.com).
- » Download our App from the App Store. Under the “Connect” block, choose “Belong.”
- » If you have a friend already in a group, start attending with them.

The word disciple simply means “follower.” This is why our mission is to glorify God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus. Here at Bible Center, we are about discipleship—the process of becoming more like Jesus Christ.



It's nearly impossible to disciple others by sitting beside them in a worship service on Sundays. This is why we encourage life-on-life interaction. We encourage our group members to eat together, pray together, share struggles together, go to the park together, see movies together, and serve their neighbors together. Discipleship is simply friendship with a vision!

#2. Care happens best in smaller groups.

The world is a dangerous place. It's much safer to journey in groups than to forge ahead alone. Actually, God designed us with a need to live in community with others. This reflects the eternal relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In his book, *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam advocates for a sense of belonging in any community. He writes, "A community's overall health, educational achievement, local economic strength, and other measures are dependent on the level of social capital that exist there." He argues that the typical ways we explain success make only a marginal difference: geography, history, leadership skill, dynamic programs, and economic advantages. "Throughout history, a community's well-being simply had to do with the quality of the relationships."

Bible Center Church has a unique opportunity to model life-on-life care better than the cast of the old TV show "Cheers" ever could. Bowling leagues, ball teams and volunteer fire departments provide a degree of camaraderie, but God invites churches to lead the way in care.

Are relationships sometimes messy? Absolutely. Conflict, division, chaos and pride are the result of living in a broken world; however, the benefits far outweigh the risks.

Who will care for your family while you are in the hospital? Your group. Who will provide funeral meals for your family? Your group. Who will be there for you through the highs and lows of life? Your group. If a group member is struggling beyond the care found in the group, the leader can quickly and confidentially connect him or her to Bible Center's Counseling Center.

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Session #5

BELONG @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

Your group is not just something you attend; it's a family. Your group members are called to care for you in times of need, provide accountability, and pray for you. Your group members may not necessarily be your best friends, but they can be your connection to gospel community.

#3. Outreach happens best in smaller groups.

What was Jesus' mission? To seek and to save the lost. ([Luke 19:10](#))

Why does God leave us here on earth after we trust Jesus as Savior? We will worship better in heaven. We will fellowship better in heaven. We will understand God better in heaven. Nevertheless, in heaven, we cannot tell the lost about Jesus. Bible Center Church exists for those who aren't yet here.

One of the best ways to reach our neighbors is through intentional, relational groups. As our unchurched friends see us enjoying meals, events, and parties with our groups, they are much more likely to jump in. In our modern day, most people want to belong before they believe.

Bible Center will grow more in the next 10 years through the impact of our groups than through the impact of our worship services. This is why we are in the process of multiplying more groups and creating space for new people to jump in.

"The gospel is the work of God to restore humans to union with God and communion with others, in the context of a community, for the good of others and the world."

– **Scot McKnight**

Discussion Questions:

What previous, if any, church background do you have?

What benefits do you see of everyone in a church also being part of a smaller group?

What dangers could arise in a large church like ours without a smaller group emphasis?

NOTES

Session #6

SERVE @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH



“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

– MARK 10:45

Think about all the ways people serve and need served in a church like Bible Center. What happens on Sunday is only a small part of a week’s worth of ministry, but imagine all that takes place in order for Sunday to run smoothly:

- Gates are unlocked.
- Camera crews are trained.
- Children’s servants are recruited.
- Coffee is brewed.
- Offerings are counted.
- Students are taught.
- Musicians are practiced.
- Greeters are scheduled.
- Floors are swept.
- Bulletins are stuffed.
- Towels are washed.
- Nursery toys are wiped.
- Power bills are paid.
- Diapers are changed.
- Prayers are prayed.

Everybody is a servant. The question is not, “How am I serving?” but “*Whom* am I serving?”

Every week, we feel the pressure of the 80/20 Rule: 80% of the work is often done by 20% of the people. So our staff is asking, “Why should our members serve? How can we help even more people get in the game?”

Why should our members serve? Because...

1. Jesus is Lord (1 Corinthians 12:1-3).

Paul told the early church that all their service was designed to remind people that Jesus is Lord.

NOTES

Session #6

SERVE @ BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

What's the best motivation for serving in the church? By remembering that Jesus came and served us in order to bring us into God's family. (*Ephesians 2:11-22; Hebrews 13:11-16; Philippians 2:4-8*) We can serve others in hopes that they too might be brought into God's family.

2. God is creative (*1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-30*).

Just as there is variety and diversity in God Himself (the Trinity), there is variety in diversity within the church. (*Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:11*) As God's image-bearers, we are hardwired to serve. Service is not something we do, it's integral to who we are.

Think of how different a nursery worker can be, depending on their spiritual gifts or personality. Different nursery workers might say...

- "Take all time you want. I don't care if Pastor Matt preaches long. Enjoy your morning!" (She probably has the gift of mercy.)
- "I ran out to Walmart in between services and bought you three more bottles." (She probably has the gift of giving.)
- "The whole time I had little Johnny, I prayed for him. I believe he's the next Billy Graham!" (She probably has the gift of faith.)
- "Your baby boy threw up all over me, but I didn't care. The puke smelled like roses." (She probably has the gift of serving.)
- "I organized your diaper bag." (She probably has the gift of administration.)
- "Let me give you 25 pointers on how to be a mom. And here's a book to read." (She probably has the gift of teaching.)

3. We are one unified church (*1 Corinthians 12:12-13*).

Just as we are part of one Spirit, we are part of one church. With whom in the world do we have more in common than the people in our church? We were amazed by the same baby in a manger, stirred by the same Bible, saved by the same cross, and destined for the same eternity. We are God's family! Families serve each other.

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4. We all need each other (*1 Corinthians 12:14-26*).

Just as different parts of the human body depend on each other, so the members of God's family need each other. This is vividly seen at Bible Center Church.

- The ushers depend on the bulletin stuffing team.
- The greeters depend on the shuttle bus drivers to bring people to the doors.
- The children's ministry team depends on the refreshment team for coffee.
- The nursery team depends on the cleaning team.
- The worship team depends on the maintenance team.
- The chair pocket team depends on the printing team.
- The benevolence team depends on the meal team, the funeral team, and the repair team.

God invites us all to play a role. Every person matters!

Paul encourages us to "earnestly desire" to use our gifts for the Lord. In other words, he calls us to zealously search for a place to serve until we've found just the right spot.

WE HAVE A DEDICATED STAFF MEMBER TO HELP YOU FIND A PLACE TO SERVE!

- » Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Christy Corbin (Volunteer@BibleCenterChurch.com). She's your travel guide!
- » Go to BibleCenterChurch.com/serve. Serving opportunities are listed here.

Serving FAQs

Q: "The church is so big. Do you really need me?"

A: Absolutely! When compared to churches in other larger cities, our church is quite small. But, our vision is so big and God's heart for Charleston is so big, we desperately need you! We can't glorify God and serve our city as much without you!

Q: "Your staff serves with such excellence. Are you sure you want me, a volunteer, messing it up?"

A: The staff follows the vision of our Senior Pastor, but our volunteers make excellence happen. Plus, once you peek behind the scenes, you'll see we're still trying to figure it out. Join us on this journey!

Discussion Questions:

Where do you feel called to serve? Or about what service area are you passionate?

How has God uniquely gifted me to serve this church?

What kind of serving helps you feel the most fulfilled?



“Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

– Dr. Luke, ACTS 17:11

Have you ever wondered, “Why do we need theology? Does doctrine really matter?” A. W. Tozer said it best in his book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*: “Whatever comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

The ancient, North African pastor, Augustine, is credited as saying, “In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity.” In other words, the members of Bible Center strive for unity in our close-handed beliefs, while still appreciating the diversity of our open-handed beliefs. In all things, we desire to promote worship, humility and love.

Our doctrinal statement as listed in the church constitution...

We believe the whole Bible (66 books) to be the inspired, infallible, inerrant (in the original manuscripts) Word of God. The Bible is the final source of authority in matters of faith, principle, and practice (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). We subscribe to the dispensational interpretation of Scripture (*Ephesians 1:10*). We abide by the following statement of faith:

A. God

(Deuteronomy 6:4). The Triune God...one God existing in three persons: Father (*Isaiah 64:8*), Son (*John 1:1,2,14*), and Holy Spirit (*John 14:16-26*).

B. Jesus Christ

His virgin birth and deity (*Luke 1:35*); His death, burial, and bodily resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*; *Acts 2:32-36*).

NOTES

Session #7

WHAT WE TEACH

C. Holy Spirit

He is a divine person. He strives with and convicts the unsaved. He regenerates, indwells at the time of salvation, seals, enlightens, guides, and comforts the believer (*John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*).

D. Satan

The personality of the Devil as the enemy of Christ, saints, and angels (*Job 1:6-7*).

E. Creation

The literal seven-day Genesis account of creation (*Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17*).

F. Man

He was created in the moral image of God. He fell (*Genesis 3*). The universal depravity of the human race. By nature, man is separated from God by sin and is therefore lost (*Romans 3:19-23*).

G. Salvation

Man is saved by the grace of God through faith in the sacrificial death and blood atonement of Jesus Christ (*Romans 3:25; 10:9-13*). Justification and eternal life according to Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; and John 10: 28-29. We believe that all who are truly born again are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the sealing of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Christ (*Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:9-13*).

H. The Church

We believe that all believers in this age comprise the Church in its universal and invisible aspect and are a part of the Body and bride of Christ. We further believe in the local manifestation of the church, which is the center of God's methods and plans for this age. The local church consists of a group of born again, baptized believers who have organized themselves according to the Scriptures for the purpose of edification, fellowship, observance of the ordinances, and evangelization of the world (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27*). There are two ordinances given to the local church by its Head, Jesus Christ. These ordinances give witness to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and our identification with Him by faith.

NOTES



1. Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, showing forth in a solemn and beautiful picture our identification with a crucified, buried, and risen Savior (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-39*).

2. Lord's Supper This symbolic communion of Christians with Christ at the Lord's Table is open to all born again believers who are in fellowship with God. The Lord's Supper shall be commemorated at least once a quarter (*Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32*).

I. The Second Coming

We believe in a pre-tribulational rapture (catching away) of the Church. We believe in the personal and pre-millennial return of Christ to the earth. We believe in the establishment of the Kingdom or Millennium during which Christ will reign for one thousand years on and over the earth in fulfillment of the promises to God's Old Testament covenant people, Israel (*1 Thessalonians 4:13- 18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Philippians 3:20-21; Acts 1:9-11; Zechariah 12:10; 14:4-9; Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6-7*).

J. Heaven and Hell

1. Heaven is the eternal home of bliss and glory for all who through faith have been made righteous before God. We believe that those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, and will be eternally with Christ. We further believe that all of the righteous will be raised from the dead to reign with Christ and share in His glory (*John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Romans 8:16-18; Philippians 1:23; Revelation 21-22*).

2. Hell is the eternal punishment of all the lost and guilty without Christ. We believe that the lost, because of their unbelief and sin, are under the just condemnation of God and will suffer everlasting, conscious punishment for sin. We further believe that they will be raised from the dead to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of God to receive their final judgment (*John 3:18; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15*).

NOTES

Session #7

WHAT WE TEACH

K. Separation and Service

- 1. All believers are called unto a life of separation** to God from the world, sinful habits and practices (*Romans 12:1-2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 6:14*).
- 2. Every believer is obligated to witness** by deed and word, to intercede for others in prayer, and to proclaim the Gospel to all the world (*Philippians 1:29; 1 Timothy 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 1:8*).

L. God Established the Church at Pentecost in the First Century

- 1. We believe God used the apostles to establish the church** (*Ephesians 2:20; Acts 2:1-41*). He gave them gifts (including raising the dead, *Acts 20:7-12*) unique to the apostolic era which authenticated the message of the gospel (*2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4*). After the church was established, God continues to authenticate the gospel through the transformed lives of followers of Christ and their love for one another (*John 13:35*).
- 2. God is active in the world through His church.** We believe God is free and is bound only by His integrity to Himself. God can do whatever He wants, and He does. He is good, just, immutable, and holy.
- 3. We believe God heals when He chooses to heal.** He is honored when we ask and, in His pleasure, chooses to heal to glorify His Son.

M. Human Sexuality

As a wonderful gift from God, sexual intimacy is to be expressed between a man and woman within the commitment and love of a marital relationship (*Genesis 2:24-25; Proverbs 5:18; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Hebrews 13:4*). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's perfect gift (*Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27*).

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“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

– Paul, 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14

Have you ever watched the “The Lone Ranger” tv series or have seen the 2013 movie starring Johnny Depp? While the Lone Ranger is heroic on the big screen, there is no such thing as a “Lone Ranger Christian” in the Bible. Every genuine Christian in the New Testament was accountable to a specific church, a local expression of the body of Christ.

Poet Wendell Berry writes, “There’s no community apart from a real people and a real place.” Meaningful Membership is our way of embracing a slower, more committed way of life. We are not committing to a statement of faith or an idea of church; we are committing to an actual group of people in an actual place.

Where is Church Membership in the Bible?

1. Records were kept (*Acts 2:37-47*).
2. Records of widows were kept to ensure proper care (*1 Timothy 5:3-16*).
3. Elections were conducted by recognized church members (*Acts 6:1-6*).
4. God will hold pastors accountable for how they shepherd specific members (*Hebrews 13:17; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4*). Do more Christians live in Charleston than just those who

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Session #8

MEANINGFUL MEMBERSHIP

have committed to Bible Center Church? Absolutely. But for whom will God hold our pastors accountable? Those who have committed to Bible Center Church membership.

5. Jesus commands us to hold members accountable and exercise appropriate levels of church discipline as necessary (*Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Galatians 6:1*). Such a weighty matter requires a definable group of people.
6. Church members are called to follow a particular human leader (*Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*). It is impossible for all Christians in the global church to follow the same human leader; therefore, members of specific local church are called to follow specific leaders.
7. The church is compared to a human body (*1 Corinthians 12:12-31*). Body parts are attached and committed to serving one another. Disjointed body parts cease to be body parts.
8. The early church was aware of those committed to their congregation (*Romans 16:1-16*).

What are the Benefits of Bible Center Membership?

Membership at Bible Center is based upon salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ and the profession of that faith through believer's baptism by immersion. Membership at Bible Center is a mutual commitment between the church and the member.

Our membership list is being used more than ever as a resource by our staff pastors, elders, and staff ministry team. You receive the following benefits by joining Bible Center Church:

1. Intentional loving care from your leaders who seek your growth in Christ (*Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12*). Going forward, all Bible Center members will be cared for by an assigned lay pastor (elder) and deacon.

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2. The privilege of setting the direction of the church through voting on larger items (members ages 18+): calling a Senior Pastor, annual budget, unbudgeted expenditures exceeding 2% of the annual budget, any revisions to the church constitution, and the dismissal of an unrepentant member after the church's loving and restorative efforts have been exhausted.
3. Being permitted to teach one of our groups. To ensure doctrinal integrity, going forward, only members will teach or be the primary leaders of our groups ([Acts 20:28-31](#)).
4. Being permitted to lead as a deacon or elder ([1 Timothy 3](#)).
5. Participating in church discipline when a member no longer displays gospel humility and repentance ([Matthew 18:15-20](#); [1 Corinthians 5](#); [Galatians 6:1](#)).
6. Receiving regular teaching, preaching and counsel from the whole counsel of God's Word in order to lead you in God's will and to equip you to serve Christ ([Galatians 6:6](#); [1 Timothy 5:17-18](#); [Acts 20:27-28](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5](#); [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)).
7. Tangible help if you are in need ([Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35, James 2:14-17](#)).
8. Assurance that your elders and deacons will be held accountable to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures ([1 Timothy 3:1-13 and 5:17-22](#); [Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4](#)).
9. Personalized prayer, particularly when you are sick ([James 5:14](#)).
10. Protection from false teachers ([Acts 20:28-31](#)).

*Non-members may receive the overflow of some of these benefits (especially #6 - #10) as church resources and time permit; however, we are resolved to provide all 10 benefits to those who have committed to Bible Center Church membership.

NOTES

What are the Responsibilities of Bible Center Members?

See the full Membership Covenant in Appendix A at the end of this booklet. In summary, Bible Center members are asked to commit to five things when they commit to church membership:

- 1. Commit to Worship** – “I regularly attend and participate in a worship service.”
- 2. Commit to Belong** – “I have a smaller group where everybody knows my name.”
- 3. Commit to Serve** – “I have found a way to serve my church family and my city.”
- 4. Commit to Give** – “I financially support our mission with prioritized, percentaged giving.”
- 5. Commit to Accountability** – “I want the church’s help to live a holy and peaceful life.”

“How do I Become a Member of Bible Center?”

1. Membership Weekend

- Join our gospel-fueled mission and vision.
- Jump into our discipleship strategy: worship, belong and serve.

2. Application

- Complete the Membership Application and turn into a pastor or the church office.
- If you have questions, or if we can help with your application, please let us know!

3. Pastoral Meeting

- Your membership interview will be scheduled with a staff pastor and an elder.
- They will enjoy hearing your faith journey and praying for you.

NOTES



*After all of this, we will announce you to the congregation as an applicant, and the board of elders will vote on accepting your membership so the congregation can welcome you into membership!

Discussion Questions:

Do you feel that modern society does well with commitment or is lacking in this area?

How can Christians better model dedication and commitment to a watching world?

What are some ways committing to membership might help your spiritual growth?



“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

– HEBREWS 10:23-25

“What Is My Next Step?”

That’s the question we pray you will ask yourself in the hours and days ahead. May this also be your prayer.

Worship

Perhaps your next step is to take more advantage of the worship services at Bible Center. If you typically come twice per month, try coming three times per month...or even every Sunday. Receive the worship service as God’s gift to you.

Belong

Perhaps your next step is to jump into one of our many groups. Some groups meet at the church (Adult Bible Fellowships), while others meet in homes (Community Groups). Men’s and women’s groups are also available. To find one whose location and time works best for you, contact Sheri Skidmore (SSkidmore@BibleCenterChurch.com).

Serve

Perhaps your next step is to begin serving in some way that uses your God-given gifts and allows you to meet other Bible Center family members. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Christy Corbin, today (Volunteer@BibleCenterChurch.com).

NOTES

Consider Joining Bible Center Church Membership

MEMBERSHIP WEEKEND

If you're reading this at the end of the Belong: Membership Weekend, you've completed the first of your three steps toward church membership! Congratulations!

APPLICATION

Simply complete the application found at the back of this booklet or in the back of the constitution. You may give it to any of our pastors, anyone at the information desk, or drop it in a response box. We will contact you right away.

PASTORAL MEETING

Your third and final step of the membership process is a pastoral meeting. You'll set up a time to meet with at least one of our staff pastors and one of our lay pastors (elders). They'll be encouraged to hear your story (how you become a Christian, how God brought you to Bible Center) and pray with you.

If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to reach out anytime to our Senior Pastor, Matt Friend (MFriend@BibleCenterChurch.com).

Session #10
STAFF Q & A (2.0)



1. What is your leadership structure?
2. What denomination is Bible Center?
3. How does your missionary program work?
4. How is Bible Center School and Preschool connected to BCC?
5. How is BCC funded?
6. What happens when we give our money?

*What other questions are on your mind?

Appendix A

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT



Confessing Jesus Christ as our Savior, and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves, in the presence of God and each other, to share the responsibilities of our church by praying for its growth, supporting our leaders, and giving regularly and generously.

We will honor our Lord by discovering and using our gifts and talents, being equipped to serve, and developing a servant's heart.

With God's help, we will support the testimony of Christ by regular prayer and Bible reading, attending faithfully, living a godly life, and developing relationships with unbelievers and sharing Jesus with them.

We will protect the church's unity by acting in love toward others, refusing to gossip, and warmly welcoming those who visit.

Appendix B

CONTACT US & SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

This list does not include the many other important leaders on our Bible Center School Staff or on our Expanded Staff Ministry Team.

MATT FRIEND

Senior Pastor

MFriend@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 230

MATT GARRISON

Pastor of Families & Students

MGarrison@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 321

LEE WALKER

Executive Pastor

LWalker@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 221

CHAD COWAN

Care & Discipleship Pastor

CCowan@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 325

RICHARD THOMPSON

Children's Pastor

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Extension: 336

MICHELLE THOMPSON

Early Childhood Director

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Extension: 302

PAULA TONEY

Director of Hospitality

PToney@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 316

MAIN NUMBER

(304) 346-0431

PSST... INSIDER INFORMATION

(304) 941-1700 + ext.

Bypass the switchboard and call directly!

ROBERT BALLARD

Worship Pastor

RBallard@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 323

CHRISTY CORBIN

Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer@BibleCenterChurch.com
Extension: 317

CALEB KORTH

Pastor of Worship Arts

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JOSH WILLETTS

Middle School Pastor

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Appendix B

CONTACT US & SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

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Communications Director

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Extension: 270

JANE JACKSON

Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

JJackson@BibleCenterChurch.com

Extension: 332

PASTOR-ON-CALL

(304) 346-0431 + option 4

Even outside of regular office hours, a Bible Center pastor is available during times of emergency or distress.

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST

All church attenders may submit prayer requests in a number of ways, and they have a choice of specifying requests as confidential or not.

- Call a pastor or speak to him in person.
- Submit a Connection Card (the tear-off sheet found on any Sunday bulletin).
- Go to the Bible Center app, click on "Connect," then "Prayer & Praise."
- Go to BibleCenterChurch.com/contact and fill out the form.

Appendix C

SET FREE BY THE GOSPEL: NAVIGATING BETWEEN LICENSE & LEGALISM

God went to great lengths to set his people free both from slavery to sin and the burden of trying to earn our way back to God. This truth is declared clearly in the book of Galatians:

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (*Galatians 5:1*)

Throughout human history, there have generally been two dangerous extremes of this revolutionary gospel-freedom: the sin of license and the sin of legalism. Both are forms of slavery and both distort God’s intention.

LICENSE

“License” describes the point of view that Jesus performed perfectly on our behalf and died the death we deserve, so now it doesn’t matter how we live. The person who believes this might say, “Jesus paid for my sins. Now I can do whatever I want!”

The sin of license is a rejection of the gospel. Christ’s life, death, and resurrection did not simply change our legal standing before God (from guilty to free), it also ushered us into an entirely new way of life. To think that how we live does not matter to God is to reject one of the primary purposes of Jesus’ mission on earth—restoring God’s people to life the way it was meant to be lived.

The person who falls into license thinks that God’s commands are about fulfilling the “divine checklist in the sky.” God’s commands were never simply about pleasing him, though. King David declares, “You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (*Psalms 16:11*)

God’s commands were never harsh demands of an overbearing task master. They have always been about God’s people experiencing life, fullness of joy, and pleasure with him. To say we can live however we want because of the work of Christ is to say we know better than God. Living an extreme life of license (by avoiding God’s instructions for living) will cause us to miss out on an abundant life.

LEGALISM

“Legalism” describes the point of view that thinks Jesus made us right with God but that relationship can be severed again unless we behave rightly. Legalists see the gospel as a divine booster shot that makes us capable of living better. They think that if we live well enough, God will be pleased with us and we can stay in relationship with him. They wrongly seek approval from God and others by obeying rules or a man-made code of conduct, not resting in the finished work of Jesus.

This too is a rejection of the gospel. The rules they seek to follow can include both Old Testament laws such as circumcision or observance of special feasts as well as modern day preferences like a certain dress code or style of music.

Legalism says, “Sin is such a big deal that Jesus had to come and die. My life’s goal is not to sin anymore.” Regrettably, legalists miss out on the joy of being in a safe, secure relationship with God. Our right standing with God is a free gift of God’s grace, not a reward for work we do. This grace is not a booster shot, either. It is the saving and sustaining power of God.

Appendix C

SET FREE BY THE GOSPEL: NAVIGATING BETWEEN LICENSE & LEGALISM

GOSPEL FREEDOM

Gospel freedom walks the line between legalism and license. God has given Christians the liberty to make decisions in various situations. This freedom does not say, "Do whatever you want" but rather, "There's a better way to live."

This kind of freedom requires dependence on God's Spirit, attention to God's Scriptures, and wisdom from God's community. These decisions, bathed in prayer, are informed primarily by the Scriptures as well as the individual's conscience and context.

Our conscience is a gift from God that helps us to make decisions that lead to life. It's sometimes thought of as the "little voice" warning us in certain situations. That little voice isn't always perfect and sometimes we sinfully ignore it. We can help our conscience grow and become more accurate, though, through reflecting on God's word and spending time in prayer.

Molding our conscience is an essential part of the Christian life because there are countless situations we will face that can't be solved by a simple verse from the Bible. Should you see an R-rated movie? What about PG-13? How much money should you give to the church? Is it okay to listen to pop music on the radio? Can I get that plastic surgery? Who should I vote for? The examples are endless.

License says, "Do whatever you want." Legalism says, "Create all the rules and then follow them." Gospel freedom says, "All things are permissible, but not everything is beneficial. God's Word and God's Spirit will help me discern what's best at this time."

Along with molding our conscience, we must learn to pay attention to our context. Our context is wherever we are and whoever we are with. There may be a decision that is completely acceptable in one situation and completely sinful in another ([1 Corinthians 8:10-12](#)). A good example of this is what you would or would not do around your children.

At Bible Center, we seek to stay as close as we can to what God has revealed in the Bible. Not every question is explicitly addressed in the pages of Scripture, though. That is why we embrace the gift of God's Spirit inside of us, the conscience He has given us, and the people with whom He has surrounded us (including our leaders). We don't want to invent new rules to follow or add verses to the Bible. We want to celebrate the gospel by molding our consciences, paying attention to our context, and enjoying the freedom Jesus has provided for us.



	LEGALISM	GOSPEL FREEDOM	LICENSE
LEADS TO	Rigid, divisive rule-keeping	Health and balance	Living like we are not saved
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOSPEL	Limits and reduces the gospel	Celebrates the gospel	Perverts and abuses the gospel
PROUD OF	Works and following rules	Christ's perfect life of faithfulness and His work on the cross	Freedom to do anything
LED BY	The Judaisers <i>(Galatians)</i>	The Apostle Paul	The Church at Corinth <i>(1 & 2 Corinthians)</i>
EXAMPLE: CIRCUMCISION	Every Christian should be circumcised	Circumcision is not required, but also not forbidden <i>(Acts 16:3)</i>	Circumcision is always wrong
EXAMPLE: MEDIA	TV is evil	Thoughtful engagements with wise limits	Thoughtless media consumption—everything on TV is always okay
EXAMPLE: POLITICS	All Christians should vote like me	Political convictions held with grace toward others	Politics don't matter
EXAMPLE: LANGUAGE	Bad words are always bad and should never be spoken	Words determined by conscience and context, spoken out of love	I can say whatever I want to whomever I want

Appendix D

GRACE-MOTIVATED GIVING

In 2 Corinthians 8:4, Paul describes how the early Christians—who lived in serious poverty and affliction, “urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people.” They begged for the chance to give because they didn’t want to miss out on contributing to what God was doing.

The gospel confronts us to live with a different way of thinking about money and the world around us. We are inspired by stories of transformation!

Jesus saw and taught a clear connection between the heart and money^x. We grow in our joyful generosity as we grow in our faith. The more we realize the wonders of the gospel, the more eagerly we respond with our whole lives—including our money.

GENEROSITY PRINCIPLES

1. Everything I have has been entrusted to me by God.

We are managers of God’s money and will someday give an account (*Luke 12:41-48; Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 4:7*).

2. Giving to God is an expression of my love and gratitude.

We give in response to our relationship with and our worship of God. Generosity and gratefulness, not guilt and obligation, move us to give. We give “not grudgingly or out of obligation, for God loves a cheerful giver” (*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*).

3. Give to God first and then live off the rest.

Often we spend what we earn on our needs and desires; then, if there’s anything left over, we may give something to God. The Bible teaches the opposite: “Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines” (*Proverbs 3:9-10*).

4. My giving is to be sacrificial.

Sacrificial giving is voluntarily doing without so another can benefit. We aspire towards sacrificial giving because it imitates Jesus who “though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor” (*2 Corinthians 8:9-13, Luke 21:1-4*).

5. God invites me to give in proportion to how He has blessed me financially.

God does not expect everyone to give equal amounts. Those who are materially wealthy are exhorted to give more, but all give according to the income and resources entrusted to them by God (*2 Corinthians 8-9*). This is what is called “proportionate giving,” a principle referred to in Acts 4:32-34, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

6. God blesses me as I give generously back to Him.

The Bible is clear about the principle of sowing and reaping. God urges us to sow, that is, to give generously to his work and the needs of others. In return He promises to bless us beyond what we would expect (*Luke 19:11-27, Malachi 3:10-12*).



GIVING FAQ

Should someone give who doesn't have much money?

"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints." –2 Corinthians 8:1-4

What should I do if I cannot afford to give?

You may need to begin by reorganizing your spending habits with a wise budget. If you are someone with an unusual need (i.e. traumatic injury, impoverished elderly, struggling single mom) then the church should aid you.

Should non-Christians give?

Non-Christians are welcome in church but are not expected to give any money.

Can I get a tax deduction for giving?

Yes. If you give in a way that we can record (i.e. online, check, cash in a marked envelope, or through the app), then our church bookkeeper will keep accurate totals of your giving and send you a receipt at the end of the year.

How can I give at Bible Center?

There are a variety of different ways to give:

1. Placing cash or check in the offering basket or response box (beside the fireplace) during the Sunday services. If you give cash, we ask members to put the money in a giving envelope with name and address written on it so that we can send you a donation letter for your taxes.
2. Mailing a check to the Finance Office at 1111 Oakhurst Drive, Charleston, WV 25314
3. Giving Online – At *BibleCenterChurch.com* click 'GIVE'
4. Using the BCC Mobile App – Download from the App Store, press 'Give' and follow the prompts.
5. Texting the letters BCCWV to 77977. You will receive a link and prompts to follow.

*All electronic methods use the same secure giving system called PushPay. It is tied to our database (BC Central) and will efficiently facilitate your gifts and maintain records. You can give using your bank account (checking or savings), a credit card or a debit card.

Appendix D

GRACE-MOTIVATED GIVING

Does Bible Center have controls for ensuring my contributions are handled safely?

Yes. At every step of incoming and outgoing monies, we have staff who oversee the process. We do not count money unless another is present. Our staff oversees faithful member volunteers through the counting process. We have various people that fill the following roles: taking offering, counting money, checking money after the services Sunday, counting and recording on Sundays and Mondays, depositing money at the bank, verifying deposit receipts, signing checks and reconciling account statements. This allows us to be completely above reproach and leaves no room for potential accusation or fraud.

What's my next giving step?

At Bible Center, we challenge our members to continually grow in their generosity. "But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." –2 Corinthians 8:7

May the Lord lead you in one of the following next steps to become a...

1. First Time Giver – If you've never given before, take the first step.
2. Regular Giver – We challenge sporadic givers to commit to regular, proportional giving (perhaps 10%). If your giving is inconsistent, take the step to make it regular and proportional. Many have been helped by the automatic withdrawal option.
3. Above and Beyond Giver – 10% is not a law, nor is it a ceiling. The New Testament vision for generosity is much greater than that. It calls us to follow Jesus in radical, sacrificial giving. We challenge those who have learned the discipline of "tithing" to step beyond 10% and give above and beyond as needs and opportunities arise.
4. Multiplier – Some have given radically and sacrificially for a long time. We want to encourage you for being a leader in generosity. Consider how you might be a financial coach for someone else, or consider sharing your testimony with others. The testimony of a generous giver inspires greater generosity others. Please share the lessons and experiences God has given you!

Appendix E

GLOBAL OUTREACH VISION

Ratified by the Board of Elders on 9/15/16



	10 CORE CONVICTIONS	10 THINGS WE MUST DO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	10 QUESTIONS WHEN CONSIDERING GLOBAL PARTNERS
1	<p>God is a missionary. He desires his glory to spread among all peoples.</p> <p>Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church—worship is. We are passionate about missions because many have not yet experienced the joy of God-worship. We glorify God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus.</p> <p><i>Gen 12:1-3; Ex 9:14-16; Josh 2:1-11; Isa 45:22; 49:1-6, 22; Hab 2:14; Ps 67; Jonah; Mal 1:10-11; Matt 24:14; 28:18-20; Mk 16:15; Jn 12:32; Acts 1:8; Rev 5:6-10; 7:9-10</i></p>	<p>Highlight God's love for all nations more than ever in our worship services, sermons, groups, classes, and service opportunities.</p> <p>God's heart for the nations must become increasingly part of our vocabulary.</p>	<p>How does this potential or current global partner help us spread God's glory in a particular part of the world?</p>
2	<p>God calls us to build a strong, gospel-centered church in Charleston first. The kingdom of God expands through multiplication and always starts with an emphasis at home.</p> <p>From a position of security, he then calls us to strategically launch the gospel to our nation and world. As believers are strengthened here, more resources will be given, more leaders will be sent, more churches and will be started, and more followers of Jesus will be made in other places (state, nation & world). We can only export a missional lifestyle that we embrace locally first.</p> <p><i>Acts 1:8</i></p>	<p>Refine our global outreach budget to 10% of our total budget as soon as possible in order to have a stronger launching pad. We desire to give even more to outreach in the future. For example, we would rather give 10% of \$8M than 15% of \$4M.</p> <p>Of the 10% budgeted, we'd like to see it reasonably split in 4 categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jerusalem – Local outreach (outreach budget) 2. Judea – Stateside, reaching people like us 3. Samaria – Stateside, people not like us 4. End of the earth – Cross-cultural, outside USA 	<p>Does supporting this global partner help us maintain our 10% overall budget goal?</p> <p>Within that 10%, does this venture help us evenly reach our support goal for each of the 4 areas listed in Acts 1:8?</p>
3	<p>Missions is defined as Great Commission fulfillment.</p> <p><i>Matt 28:18-20</i></p>	<p>We will primarily support those involved in church planting or those strengthening local churches in some way. Over the next few years, we will ask, "What agencies or institutions do we currently support with money that we would not support otherwise?"</p>	<p>What church or group of churches is this global partner's ministry starting or strengthening?</p>

Appendix E

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Ratified by the Board of Elders on 9/15/16

	10 CORE CONVICTIONS	10 THINGS WE MUST DO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	10 QUESTIONS WHEN CONSIDERING GLOBAL PARTNERS
4	<p>The Great Commission was given to the church, and it's the church's responsibility to identify, train, send, sustain, and lovingly care for its global partners.</p> <p>There are numerous like-minded global outreach organizations with whom we can partner, and we are committed to collaborating with them. However, we want our care to become known for being far better. May God help us be the church our global partners can't live without!</p> <p><i>Acts 13:1-3; 14:21-26; 15:40; 18:22-23; Phil 1:3-8; 4:14-19; 3 Jn 6</i></p>	<p>Strive to deepen our relationships with our existing global partners and their larger sending agencies. We can do this through...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued financial support • Accountability • Regular interaction • Having CGs adopt a global partner to take ownership in the updates, writing notes to them, sending gifts, blessing them when they visit 	<p>In addition to receiving our support, how is this global partner committing to communicate with us and be accountable to us?</p>
5	<p>The ministry of praying for people groups, global partners, national believers, and unreached areas of the world is not simply an add-on but a vital part of international missions. Prayer is rebellion against the status quo.</p> <p>The gospel goes forward through the prayers of God's people. As we faithfully pray for the lost, those who are taking the gospel to them, and for churches around the globe, we are actively engaged in the Great Commission.</p> <p><i>Acts 12:5; Lk 10; Eph 6:18-19</i></p>	<p>The Global Outreach Committee plans to launch quarterly prayer meetings for our global partners.</p>	<p>If we support this global partner, how can we most effectively pray for them? Are they aware of their goal? Of their obstacles? Of their own brokenness and need to depend on Christ?</p>
6	<p>Priority should be placed on unreached and forgotten people groups.</p> <p>The NT word "nations" refers to ethnicities and people-groups, not boundaries established post-WWII. Reasonable statistics point to 27,000 distinct people groups in the world. 13,000 have no regular access to the gospel.</p> <p>God calls us to take gospel where it has never been before, or (in some cases), where it has been forgotten. This could mean an unreached village in China, or a metropolitan area in India, Jordan, or Europe. We must prioritize working in areas where there are few or no believers and where there are few or no vibrant, reproducing gospel-centered churches.</p> <p><i>Matt 28:18-20; Rom 15:19-23</i></p>	<p>Add new global partners who focus on unreached and forgotten people groups before adding anyone else.</p>	<p>If this potential global partner fits within our ends of the earth category, what unreached and forgotten people group does this global partner plan to reach?</p>



	10 CORE CONVICTIONS	10 THINGS WE MUST DO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE	10 QUESTIONS WHEN CONSIDERING GLOBAL PARTNERS
7	<p>As the world becomes increasingly urban, we will follow Paul's example and minister to the large, strategic cities as much as possible.</p> <p>When you fire a shotgun, the pellets spread over a large area, affecting a target but with less impact. When you fire a rifle, the effect is more accurate and the full impact of the bullet hits 1 spot. Knowing that we are only 1 church with limited time, personnel, and resources, we will seek to identify several international gateway cities and focus our efforts, like a rifle shot.</p> <p><i>Gen 11:4; Jer 29:4-7; Jonah 4:11, Luke 13:34</i></p>	<p>Add new global partners who focus on strategic cities before adding anyone else.</p> <p>Ideally, we will one day support multiple global partners from the same city. This will multiply our impact, including the fruitfulness and efficiency of our Go Teams.</p>	<p>Does this potential global partner fit within our burden to reach influential cities of our world, either at home or abroad?</p>
8	<p>Theology matters when multiplying disciples and churches. The Great Commission is more than just proclaiming, it is also discipling and teaching. Truth matters in all areas of life, but especially when we think about discipling others and planting new churches. God calls us to reproduce ourselves and our doctrine.</p> <p><i>Matt 28:20; Titus 2:1; Jude 3</i></p>	<p>Develop robust disciples here who know their Bibles and live on mission in the Charleston area, in hopes that God will call some to other parts of the world.</p>	<p>Does this potential global partner share our gospel emphasis and doctrinal framework?</p>
9	<p>High value should be placed on both the progress of the mission and the on-going spiritual renewal of the worker.</p> <p>In very practical ways, this means that Bible Center's primary goal is to see our partners spiritually grow and thrive, while investing deeply in the progress of the mission.</p> <p><i>Jn 1:1-9; Eph 2:1-10; Phil 1:8-11</i></p>	<p>Be more concerned with our global partners' spiritual growth than their metrics. If they are growing spiritually, they will be attuned to God's leading in their life. He will communicate to us all when it's time for them to stay or come off the field. The rate of fruitfulness in all fields varies.</p>	<p>What plan does this potential global partner have for their own soul care and spiritual renewal? Are they willing to let us encourage and speak into their life?</p>
10	<p>God has blessed us so we can bless others. This includes our gospel knowledge and resources.</p> <p>The local church must live and give sacrificially so that all nations may have an opportunity to experience the gospel. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to use our finances, our gifts, and our people for the nations.</p> <p><i>Ps 67; 1 Cor 8:8-1</i></p>	<p>Increasingly celebrate our global partners and GO Teams. We will get more of what we celebrate.</p> <p>We also need to hire a Global Outreach Pastor soon.</p>	<p>Will adding this global partner be something our church can easily see and celebrate as a we are reaching the world with the gospel?</p>

Appendix F

BC CENTRAL & THE BIBLE CENTER APP



What is BC Central?

- BC Central is a website that serves as the location of our online church community. By obtaining a log in, you can keep up with your groups, communication, and group & church calendars.
- Most of our email communication happens through BC Central, so it's important to have an email address in your account.

What can I do in BC Central?

- You can register for events and view past registrations made by you or your kids.
- You can give online, as well as see your giving history and print a statement anytime.
- You can subscribe to the church calendar or a group calendar.

How I get to it?

- The easiest way to get to BC Central is to go to *BibleCenterChurch.com* and click on the BC Central logo at the top of the page. Bookmark it for easier access.
- Click the "Sign up" link, and complete the form to obtain a log in.

What else should I know?

- Spouses will need to have different email addresses in the system.
- Your information is not visible to everyone. You can choose which groups of people can see your information.
- You control your communication settings—and whether or not you wish to receive emails from Bible Center Church.
- Please keep your contact information up-to-date.

How do I change my settings?

- Once you log in to BC Central, click the "Quick Tips to Get Started" link (under "Get Started with BC Central") on the front page. This will walk you through how to change your privacy and communication settings.
- Click on your name in the top right corner to view available options and settings.

What is the Bible Center App?

The app is an easy and convenient way to connect to Bible Center. While there is some overlap, the app and the BC Central website are not the same thing, and it is possible to have one and not the other.



What can I do on the Bible Center App?

- Watch our services live or view past sermons
- Sign up for events
- View the church calendar
- Give... hassle-free!
- Find a group
- Message us



Bible Center's gift to you ACCESS TO A VIDEO LIBRARY THAT IS DIGITAL... AND GIGANTIC

OVER 14,000 CHRISTIAN LIFE VIDEOS
Stream Biblical teaching from leading Christian publishers and ministries to your computer or mobile device.

ORIGINALS: Exclusive materials from Francis Chan, David Platt, Bill Hybels, JD Greear, Mark Batterson, Lisa Harper, and more! **RIGHTNOW KIDS:** Access to a huge library of entertaining and educational Bible-based material for kids. **REAL-LIFE STORIES:** Learn how real people like you dealt with adversity.



JOIN NOW FOR FREE

1

To register, look for your invitation email from Bible Center Church

- or -

2

Create your profile and explore!

Go to:

BIBLECENTERCHURCH.COM/RIGHTNOW



BibleCenterChurch.com/rightnow

Appendix H

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

See application on opposite page.

If you are ready to fill out and submit your application, give it to a member of the Pastoral Staff today.

You may also submit your application in other ways at any time:

- Give it to the receptionist at the Info Desk or
- Mail it to: **BIBLE CENTER CHURCH
100 BIBLE CENTER DRIVE
CHARLESTON, WV 25309**

Application

For membership as a believer in fellowship at: THE BIBLE CENTER CHURCH in Charleston, WV.
Desiring to be one with the believers of Bible Center Church, I affirm the following:

- I have attended a Belong: Membership Weekend.
- I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I accepted Christ on or about _____
(YOUR BEST APPROXIMATION)
- After my salvation, I was baptized by immersion as a public identification with Christ. I was baptized on or about _____
(YOUR BEST APPROXIMATION)
- I have read the Church Constitution, and as far as I understand Scripture, I can agree to the Church Covenant (pg. 47) and Doctrinal Statement (pgs. 33-36).
- With respect to the organizational function of this local church, I agree to abide by the operational procedures outlined in the Church Constitution.
- I am not currently under any form of church discipline from any other Bible-believing church.
- I am willing to share my salvation story with a Pastor and an Elder.
- In the space provided, please write 2-3 sentences describing how you came to receive Christ as Savior. Use the back of this application if needed.

My Testimony of Receiving Christ

If you are currently a member of another church, please list it here:

_____ City _____ State _____

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Phone: _____ DOB: _____ / _____ / _____
(MO) (DAY) (YR)

Email: _____

Submit this application by giving it to a pastor, turning it in at the church Info Desk, or mailing it to:

**BIBLE CENTER CHURCH
100 BIBLE CENTER DR.
CHARLESTON, WV 25309**



**GLORIFYING GOD BY PRODUCING
MORE MATURING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

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100 Bible Center Drive, Charleston, WV 25309**