



DISCIPLESHIP

HOUR!

FAQs

Will the Discipleship Hour affect the music in service and the praise and worship teams?

Our 8:30 service will be a traditional worship service akin to our current 9:00 service and will feature organ, choir, brass, and a collection of the great hymns of the church while following the established pattern of occasionally introducing a contemporary song appropriate to a particular sermon series or season. Our 11:00 worship service will be a contemporary worship service that features our contemporary worship band and gospel choir. This service will include a catalogue of contemporary worship songs while also allowing room for the great hymns of the faith when appropriate.

How will the Discipleship Hour classes be structured and where will they be held?

To start, our Discipleship Hour classes will be defined by age group: from nursery and preschool to elementary school to junior high and high school to adult classes that will also be divided according to peer group: 20-30s, 40-65, and 65+. This allows us to provide peer-to-peer learning opportunities alongside multi-generational fellowship and worship opportunities. All of our adult classes will be held in classrooms around the courtyard (Westminster Hall and upstairs where our Midweek classes are held), God's Special People will meet in the Annex, youth will meet in the youth rooms in the Activities Center, and children will gather in the Children's Ministry Center. Also, the Chapel will be open for personal prayer and the FP Café will be open for fellowship and conversation.

What is the plan for children during the services? Will the services/sermons be geared toward children? Are there options for older kids who can't sit still through worship?

Sunday morning worship is for the people of God—including our children! All infants and children are welcome in our worship services. For families who would like to take advantage of kids church, this will be available for students in third grade and below. To help families incorporate their children into worship, we will be building a "Kids Corner" in our narthex that will provide age-appropriate Bibles, activities, and sermon notes. Parents are also encouraged to bring snacks or quiet toys that will help kids during the sermon portion of the service. Our hope is that our children and youth will learn how to follow along and learn from the sermon as well as from the music, prayers, and sacraments.

The sermons will include moments that speak directly to kids and teens in order to facilitate family conversations and discipleship opportunities. If a sermon topic is deemed inappropriate for children (which will only happen once in a while), we will notify parents well ahead of time and provide alternative programming on those special Sundays.



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Define “Sunday is for the family, and Monday-Saturday is for the city”.

“Sunday is for the family, Monday-Saturday is for the city” is a pithy way of describing our priorities when we gather during the week. On Sundays, our focus is worshiping the risen Christ as the ever-growing family of God. Visitors and newcomers—believers or not—are always welcome, not as guests but as family members that we haven’t met yet! Still, we don’t plan to water down what we’re doing in worship or during the Discipleship Hour to become “seeker sensitive”. Our goal is to strengthen the bonds of our church family by growing in our love for Jesus and one another.

Mondays through Saturdays, our focus flips. We want members of the First Pres family present to serve the city as we love our neighbors with the hopes of introducing them to Jesus. Some of our neighbors are believers who don’t have a church home, others aren’t followers of Jesus at all, and others are somewhere in between. We want First Pres to be a kingdom witness in the center of Bakersfield, a spiritual oasis available for all who are looking for living water. So...our Monday-Saturday programs will intentionally be designed with outreach to the city of Bakersfield in mind.

How does being more outreach focused change what “normal” Wednesdays and Sundays look like?

Jesus sends his disciples (us!) into the world to be witnesses to his Kingdom and the redemption he offers through his death and resurrection. To do that well, we will gather on Sunday, finding rest and peace in the sanctuary of his presence, worshiping him and receiving the ordinary means of grace, so that we can spend the rest of the week loving our neighbors and introducing them to Jesus. On the surface, not much will change in terms of “normal”. But over time, this philosophy of ministry will help us take more seriously both worship and outreach as ambassadors of the Kingdom of Jesus.

What happens with Wednesday nights? Will there be classes, children’s programs, dinner, etc.?

Midweek is still an important part of our life together at First Presbyterian Church! We will continue to host a full dinner provided by Chef Larissa and have classes for kids, youth, and adults. The nature of the classes will change; instead of redoubling our discipleship efforts on Wednesday nights, we’ll offer outreach-oriented programs that allow our church family to more directly interact with the city of Bakersfield with the hopes of building friendships that lead to Gospel conversations.