

Spend this home group time reflecting upon Riverside's Mission, Values, as well as the two scriptures that the mission is based off of (Matt. 22:34-40 & Matt. 28:16-20).
Discuss how the mission can be a guide for you and for our group in 2011.

Mission and Values (Where are we going?)

Mission (what we are called to do):

Follow Jesus. Love people. Impact the world.

Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 28:16-20

Values (passionate ideals that drive our mission):

FOLLOW JESUS

- We **journey** on a life-long adventure of spiritual transformation.
- Our **pursuit** is guided by God's Spirit, through community, prayer and the Bible.
- **Simplicity** is reflected in our priorities, calendars, and possessions.

Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Galatians 5:25, Philippians 1:4-6

LOVE PEOPLE

- Our **relationships** are meaningful and intentional.
- In **community** we share our diversity and find unity as we experience life together.

Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:11-16, James 5:16

IMPACT THE WORLD

- Our **love** is unconditional, tangible, and directed outward.
- We **restore** the poor and neglected, reconcile divisions, and care for creation.
- We **reproduce** new Christ-followers and new churches on a similar mission.

Matthew 22:37-39, 25:34-40, 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7, Philippians 2:4-8

Statement of Faith

Riverside Church will finalize our statement of faith, by-laws, and leadership structure by the summer of 2011; this is the statement of faith from our sending church, River Valley Church, which is our current guiding statement of faith and one that we fully support and agree with:

- The Bible is God's unique revelation to people. It is the inspired, infallible Word of God, and the supreme and final authority on all matters upon which it teaches. No other writings have such divine authority. *Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20*
- There is only one God, Creator of heaven and earth, who exists eternally as three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each fully God yet each personally distinct from the other. *Genesis 1:1-3; John 1:18; 14:15-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14*
- All people are created in God's image and matter deeply to Him. Central to the message of the Bible is that God loves people, and invites them to live in connection with Himself and in community with each other. *Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:5-6; Acts 17:28*
- Apart from Jesus Christ, all people are spiritually lost and, because of sin, deserve the judgment of God. However, God gives salvation and eternal life to anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ and in His sacrifice on their behalf. Salvation cannot be earned through personal goodness or human effort. It is a gift that must be received by humble repentance and faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross. *Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-9*
- Jesus Christ, second Person of the Trinity, was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless human life, willingly took upon Himself all of our sins, died and rose again bodily, and is at the right hand of the Father as our advocate and mediator. Some day, He will return to consummate history and to fulfill the eternal plan of God. *Mark 8:27-29; John 8:51-59; 10:30-38; 20:26-29; Acts 2:36; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Peter 1:1*
- The Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity, convicts the world of sin and draws people to Jesus Christ. He also indwells all believers. He is available to instruct, guide, and empower followers of Jesus to lead Christ-like lives. He also gives spiritual gifts with which to serve the church and reach out to a lost and needy world. *Genesis 8:1; Psalm 104:29-30; Ezekiel 37:1-10; John 14; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*
- All believers are members of the body of Christ, the one true church universal. The local church is a community of believers who gather for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability, and service with each other. Through it, believers invest time, energy, and resources to fulfill the Great Commission - reaching lost people and helping them passionately pursue God. *John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 12:1-31; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:3-6; 1 Peter 2:9*
- Our Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the church: Water Baptism and Communion. These are available to all believers, but should not be considered a requirement for salvation. *Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:2-4; 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-26*
- Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. At the final judgment, unbelievers will be separated from God into condemnation. Believers will be received into God's loving presence and rewarded for their faithfulness to Him in this life. *Romans 8:34-39; 1 Corinthians 15; Philippians 1:23; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 21 & 22*