



I'm so glad you're here. At Smyrna First, we love the Lord, each other, and our community. It is my sincere

hope that you will come to know us well and allow us to love and minister to you as we all strive to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. Let this booklet serve as an introduction to our church, but let's not stop here. I would love to get to know you, serve you, and minister to you as we walk through life together. There is nothing sweeter than knowing the love and joy of Jesus. I pray this is only the start of many years worshipping and serving him together.

Dr. Jeff PenningtonSenior Pastor

Our **MISSION**

We **glorify God** by making **authentic disciples** of Jesus Christ who are *anchored* to the truth, passionate about the mission, and engaged in our community.

Our **VALUES**



The Bible is our standard. What it teaches, we believe. What it commands, we do. When it speaks, we listen. Every ministry and teaching of Smyrna First flows from the pages of God's word.



Making disciples of Jesus is our passion because it is the hope of humanity. Jesus gave us this mission and we find our deepest happiness in following him. Every ministry of Smyrna First is aimed at making disciples.



We love to be together. Jesus creates the church to be made up of many individuals united in one body. We desire to be in unity together as the church and in service to the communities where we live.

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season... 2 Timothy 4:2

We believe that the Bible is God's word, passed down to us through the ages without error and full of everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). When the Bible speaks, God speaks. God's word is clear, necessary, and sufficient for everything we face in life.

Therefore, every ministry at Smyrna First is grounded in the Bible. We are committed to helping everyone understand, apply, and live obediently according to Scripture. That is why we preach the Bible verse by verse in worship, teach the Bible in Study Groups, and apply the Bible in community.

Our commitment is to the truth. God's word is truth (John 17:17). Our mission flows from our commitment to the truth. Our community flourishes in our commitment to the truth.

You are invited to discover how we plan to make disciples of men, women, boys and girls according to the truth in the pages that follow.

WORSHIP

PRIVATE WORSHIP PUBLIC WORSHIP

Start here. Abide in Christ by believing in him and walking in obedience to him. Join with the saints in the worship of Jesus every Sunday.

Finally, take the gospel to the nations as well as right around the corner through local and global mission opportunities.

LOCAL MISSIONS
GLOBAL MISSIONS

GO

GROW

STUDY GROUPS COMMUNITY GROUPS DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Get equipped for the work of ministry through groups. We study the Bible, fellowship together, and meet for discipleship. There is a group for everyone.

Find a Ministry Team that fits your desires and gifts so that you can serve the body at Smyrna First and be a part of ministry to others.

SERVE SERVE

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Getting involved at Smyrna First is a simple path: Worship, Grow, Serve, Go.

Step 1: Worship God both privately and publicly. First of all, the Bible calls all believers to abide in Christ. Then, we should prioritize gathering with other believers for public worship.

Step 2: Grow in your knowledge and application of God's word through groups. We offer Study Groups to help you learn the Scriptures, Community Groups to connect you to others in life application, and Discipleship Groups to dive deep with other believers like you.

Step 3: Serve the body of Christ by joining a Ministry Team. You'll be able to find a team that matches your passion and gifts and will find that ministry is something you do yourself, not just something you receive.

Step 4: Go to your next door neighbor and to the ends of the earth as a witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You'll join others in regular mission efforts around the world and right across the street.

FAMILY MINISTRY

One generation shall commend your works to another...

Psalm 145:4

Proclaiming and praising the works of God to our children is one of our highest priorities. We delight in Jesus and want our children to delight in him as well. Our Family Ministry is designed to partner with parents so that they become the primary disciple-makers in their home and provide a clear and intentional plan for raising children in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

Our family ministry functions as a continuous whole with a focus on preschool, children, and students. At every stage, our children will be taught and led to know and love Jesus Christ while every parent will be equipped to raise their children in a way that follows God's blueprint for parenthood.

PRESCHOOL

Teaching children the story of the Bible, God's plan for redemption and their need for a Savior begins immediately. Parents will be equipped with the foundational principles for raising children while we care for and love our youngest blessings.

CHILDREN

Children will learn who Jesus is and what he has done while memorizing truths and Scripture that will help them put their faith in Jesus and begin to follow him in obedience. Parents will learn to lead their children at home while revealing how God relates to each person.

STUDENT

Students will dive deeper into how to apply God's word in their lives and walk in obedience to him while also becoming clear and bold witnesses in the world. Parents will learn to support and equip their child for a lifetime of faith, worship, and service.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

...equip the saints for the work of ministry...

Ephesians 4:12

The goal of making disciples is to produce mature followers of Jesus who then also make disciples. We care about building a solid foundation of doctrine, theology, and Bible knowledge so that every member will be thoroughly equipped and able to present themselves as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15).

In order to make authentic disciples of Jesus Christ, we must follow the Lord's command to teach every believer to obey all that he has commanded (Matthew 28:20). Therefore, we focus on teaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

GROUPS & TEAMS

Study Groups are any group that meet to study the Bible. These groups meet primarily on Sunday morning, but there are many opportunities to learn God's word.

Community Groups meet regularly for fellowship, prayer, and real-life application of the Bible.

Discipleship Groups are our expression of men's and women's ministry. These groups help connect you with other men or women as you follow the Lord together.

Ministry Teams mobilize our members to serve each other in ministry. Every member is encouraged to use their gifts in service on one of our 20 teams.



Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:6

WORSHIP

We gather for the worship of Jesus Christ every Sunday morning. It is the high-point of our week. We seek to exalt Jesus Christ together through singing, prayer, preaching, giving, and observing baptism and the Lord's supper. When we meet to worship, it is always a celebration of the gospel. The goal of every service is to glorify God and bring every person into an encounter with him through the Scriptures. Christian worship is a preview of heaven, therefore we want to participate in it together regularly and earnestly desire to see our worship gatherings reflect the diversity and beauty of our community to the praise and glory of God.

MISSIONS

We love the gospel. Our mission is to take the good news of salvation to as many people as possible. We focus on both local and global mission partners as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ in every place. At Smyrna First, you will have the regular opportunity to evangelize, support, and serve missions both at home and around the world through projects, partnerships, and trips. We desire to see the church give their lives in service to the gospel and provide opportunities for every walk of life. The needs around us are immense, but we believe our God is able to save. Every person at Smyrna First is encouraged to give and go in support of missions and evangelism.

...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

