



VISION OF FIRST BENTONVILLE

**I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME AND I
IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR
APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**

JOHN 15:5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02

Letter from Pastor Chris

03

Church Life

06

Mission and Values

10

Abiding Life

17

Abundant Life

23

Our Goals

24

Getting Involved



LETTER FROM PASTOR CHRIS

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!

That is a statement we hear often in today's society. The good news is that it is true. However, that sentence sends many people on a journey looking for something the world has to offer instead of what God has to offer. We pursue dreams, ideas, desires, and ambitions hoping God will bless our efforts because, of course, He has a plan. Too often we pursue what we believe to be a worthy cause while never giving thought to what God has already revealed to be part of His plan for our lives. While so many search for what God wants them to do with their one and only life, we can help you know what part of the plan is.

This is not a book about God's full plan for your life; however, it is a book about a huge, massive, important part of that plan. In *John 15:5* Jesus gave us a perfect model for life when He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Jesus clearly communicates that an abundant life comes from an abiding life. Our Savior gives us the perfect model for our life and our role in the church. We have spent time praying for direction and planning in order to accomplish this "15:5 Life" that Jesus teaches us about. I am excited about the future and believe this journey is going to be life-changing and will have an eternal impact.

This book provides a basic outline of the purposes and plans God is calling us to as Christ-followers. We want to invite you to join us on this journey as we pursue the 15:5 Life.

In Vision 2024, we have a plan to live out the mission and the mandate that Jesus set before us. What we are sharing in this vision and in these pages will not be the product of one person. We as a church family need to partner together in order to see all God wants to do in us and through us. Will you join us in praying about what your next season of life and ministry looks like and how God might use you to join us as a faith family to make an eternal impact? Here is what I know: It will require us to sacrifice time, comfort, personal resources, and even some of our own dreams in order to take up God's dream for our life.

This vision will need to be lifted up powerfully, lived out passionately, and prayed over fervently. But do not miss the words Jesus shares with us, "...he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit...". We are confident this is life at its best and eternity will prove it is worth the effort. We are excited to see all God does in and through us in the days ahead.

Chris Dixon
Chris Dixon, Senior Pastor



CHURCH AT FIRST:

The purpose of the church and the purpose of a follower of Christ can be boiled down to three specific callings:

● THE GREAT COMMANDMENT - LOVE GOD

“And he said to him, ‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ this is the great and foremost commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

● THE GREAT COMMITMENT - SERVE OTHERS

“The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 22:39-40

In Matthew 20, Jesus makes a mind-blowing statement, *“... The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”* Matthew 20:28

● THE GREAT COMMISSION - SHARING HIS STORY

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19- 20

These are the same three truths we are to live and teach.



As a church we want to help people find the abundant life found only in a relationship with Jesus. We strive to present the truth in a relevant manner for real people dealing with real life issues. We seek to provide regular teaching that is Biblically based and that can be applied to the issues we face in everyday life. We also seek to offer meaningful times of worship, opportunities to develop lifelong relationships, prayer, and other ministries for people of all ages.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**IT IS OUR MISSION TO REACH
OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE
NATIONS WITH THE
GOOD NEWS OF JESUS!**

06

VALUES OF FIRST BENTONVILLE

We believe lost and unchurched people matter to a compassionate God, and therefore, ought to matter to the church.

We believe the church should utilize every available means to reach a city, the nation, and the world.

We believe the church will see its greatest influence in being servants to the community. This includes engaging the community through acts of kindness regularly.

We believe that the church should be a unified community serving God and others by stewarding the use of their spiritual gifts. This includes the belief that every Christ Follower is uniquely gifted by God and vital to the health and effectiveness of Christ's body.

We believe that the goal of every Christ Follower should be maturity and ministry, therefore full devotion to God is normal for every believer. This includes the concept of discipleship, accountability, and service.

We believe that every expression and ministry of the church must be done with authenticity, intentionality, excellence, and integrity. This includes the concepts of evaluation, review, and passion.



07

HOW DO WE FULFILL THE CALLING OF GOD?

15:5 LIFE

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

PRIMARY GOAL:

THAT EVERY ONE OF US WOULD ASK OURSELVES, "IS MY LIFE BEARING THE FRUIT JESUS TALKS ABOUT OR AM I CHASING THINGS THAT WILL NEVER REALLY LAST?"



"WE NEED MEN SO POSSESSED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT GOD CAN THINK HIS THOUGHTS THROUGH OUR MINDS, THAT HE CAN PLAN HIS WILL THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, THAT HE CAN DIRECT HIS STRATEGY OF WORLD EVANGELIZATION THROUGH HIS CHURCH." - ALAN REDPATH



**I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE
BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME AND I
IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR
APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.**

JOHN 15:5

PRAYER AT FIRST:

"...Apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5b

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened." Luke 11:9-10

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Jesus clearly communicates the truth that we need Him to accomplish His purposes and His plans. In prayer we are raising up disciples in Christ that know His purposes and see His power. As a church we are committed to teaching people the impact of prayer and to communicating our prayer needs. We have regular gatherings for Partners In Prayer and we offer a daily prayer guide. We believe in the power of prayer.

Partner with us in prayer:

We meet monthly with the Pastors of First Bentonville to pray over every aspect of our church.

To sign-up for our next session, visit fcbentonville.org.

PRAYER GUIDE

As we begin this Journey of the 15:5 Life together, here are some key prayers that you can pray for our Church. May we remind ourselves as we pray that prayer does not equip us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.

Our ask: Set your alarm everyday for 3:05pm, so we can pray for these together daily.

PRAY – take every opportunity to reach the lost in our community.

PRAY – make disciples of those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

PRAY – cultivate our spiritual gifts that we might build up the body of Christ.

PRAY – continue to fund missionary efforts so that the good news of Jesus is proclaimed near and far.

NEXT STEPS

Every life matters to the God who loves them and the Savior who died for them.

Therefore, First is focused on every life in order to help them understand their next steps: salvation, baptism, abiding life journey, discipleship group, small group, living a life on mission.



STARTING POINT

A two part class that has been specifically designed to help you in your journey here at First Bentonville. Through the class you will discover:

The purpose, passion, and priorities of our church and determine if this is where God wants you to partner.

What it means to be a Spirit-led follower of Jesus.

Ways to discover your calling and utilize your gifts to fulfill God's specific plan for your life.

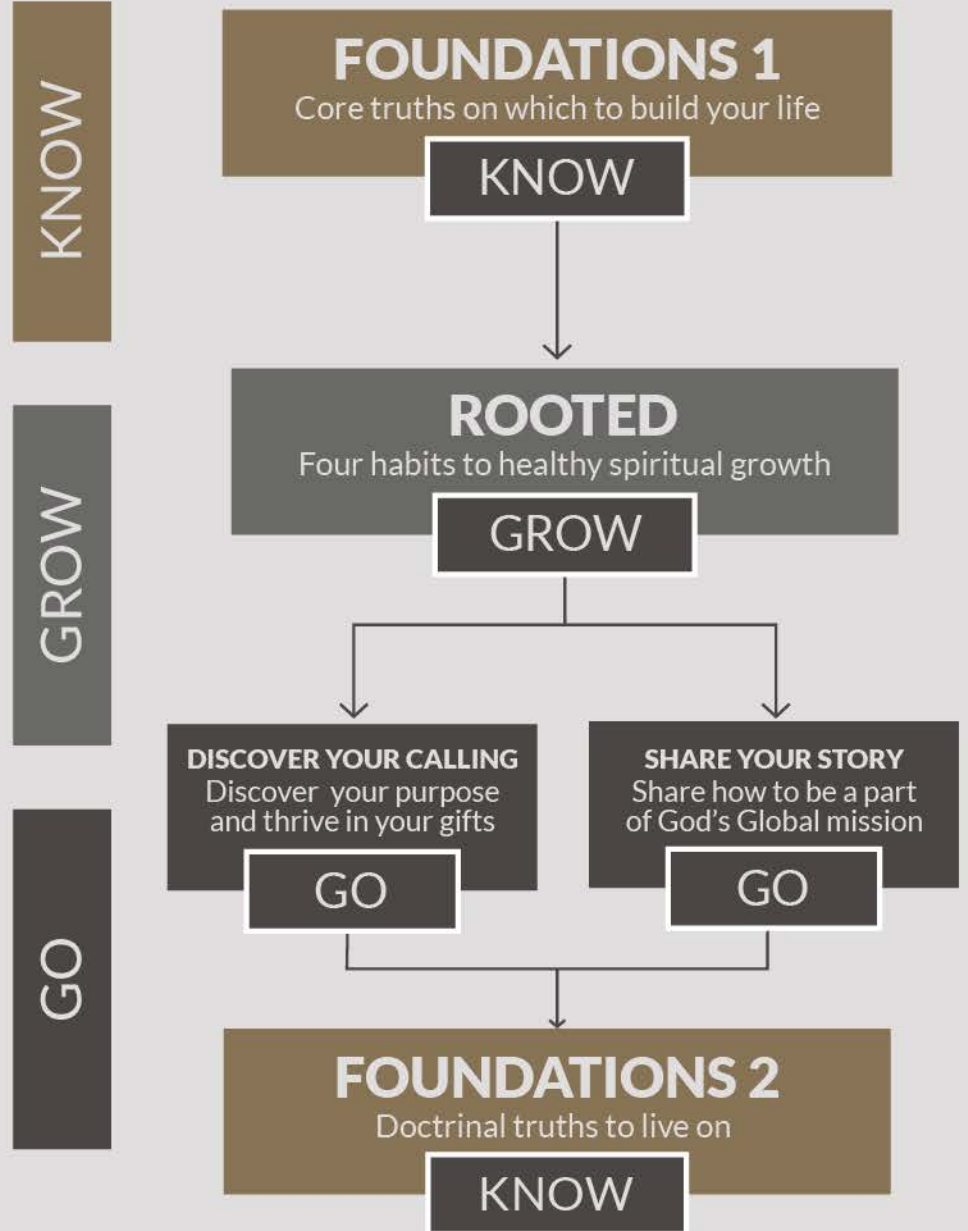
How to live out your purpose by serving others and growing in Christ.



Scan this QR code to find out more and to sign up for Starting Point.

ABIDING JOURNEY

15:5 LIFE



SMALL GROUPS:

We provide different types of small groups with their own unique purpose to help you grow in your walk with Christ and others. Our desire is to see every person attending First Bentonville involved in at least one of these groups.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS (D-GROUPS)

D-groups help provide an essential environment for every believer to have intimate friendships, accountability, and a life rooted deeply in God's Word.

These groups are gender-specific groups of 5-8 men or women who meet weekly for the purpose of accelerated spiritual transformation through the application of the spiritual disciplines.

LIFE GROUPS

Life groups are groups of individuals who meet to grow and foster a biblical community. These open groups are generally made up of individuals who are going through the same season of life and looking for a place to belong, believe and become a part of something bigger than themselves.

CYCLES

CYCLES are a seasonal series of short-term topical study groups designed to assist believers in their spiritual growth and development. These classes center around core truths every Christian needs to know; habits to a healthy walk with Christ; how to discover your calling and how to share your story, as well as classes on marriage and parenting.

Scan this QR code to find out more and to sign up for small groups.



NEXT GEN

FIRST KIDS & STUDENTS

Our focus is to invest in the next generation by continuing to disciple children, middle school and high school students in services, small groups, and focused times of renewal and growth designed especially for them.

We know it is this generation's responsibility to reach the next generation.



Weekly gatherings of age-based Bible study and worship times to help grow the next generation.

Key events spread throughout the year that are geared toward discipleship and community reach.

- THEWEEKEND - March 2024
- Kids Camp - June
- 6th - 12th grades
- VBS (First Kids) - July
- Go Golf Classic - Spring
- Student Camp - Summer
- 6th - 12th grades
- Missions Fundraiser



MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We realize the call to make disciples is a call to be the men and the women God created us to be. In a world where there is confusion we desire to bring clarity to the roles and responsibilities God defined. Therefore, we have a responsibility to reach, teach and build up the men and women of faith.

BIBLE STUDIES AND CLASSES

These studies help men and women understand and implement the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible intake and stewardship, along with the characteristics necessary to walk more intimately with the Lord.

EVENTS

Strategic events to help encourage and grow our community of men and women throughout the year.

- Men's and Women's prayer breakfasts, Men's night out, Tacos and Testimonies, Sundae Monday.

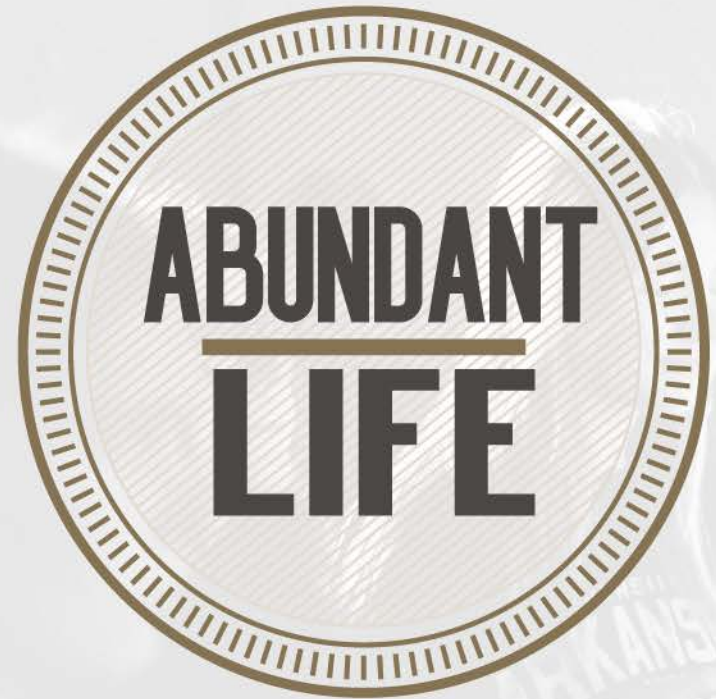
FOR THE FAMILY

Knowing the family was designed and defined by God, we are committed to investing in the family. This is an investment we make every week as we gather together as a family at First. We also are committed to specific investments of time toward marriage, parenting, relationships and confronting the cultural challenges.

- CYCLES classes focused on marriage and family. Marriage weekend (Q1 2024).

ONLINE

The call to make disciples challenges us to go to all nations. Our desire is to offer worship services and next steps to our neighbors and the nations. This year we will use our reach online to go beyond Bentonville to influence our nation and the Spanish-speaking nations of the world. This is just the beginning of our vision to expand The Good News of Jesus Christ at home and around the world.



Jesus is very clear, an **ABIDING LIFE** will lead to...

THE ABUNDANT LIFE:

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ." Acts 5:42

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase." Acts 9:31



LOVE YOUR CITY

WE ENGAGE OUR CITY THROUGH REGULAR ACTS OF KINDNESS.

We believe a God who cares cannot be represented by a people who do not care. Therefore, we regularly sow acts of kindness throughout the city to share the love of Christ.

Love Your City's passion and purpose is to **CARE** for, **CONNECT** with and **COMMUNICATE** the Love of Jesus to those in our community.

- First Kids Stop - every First Friday from April - November
- Saturday Market - every Saturday from April - November
- Super Bowl Sunday - February
- Food Truck Sunday - Summer and Fall
- Sports Ministry
- Back to School Bash - August
- Fall Carnival - October
- Teacher Appreciations (Throughout the year)
- Feeding Athletic Teams (Throughout the year)
- Lighting of The Square - November
- Joyville - December





LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Our homes are our greatest financial investment. Our goal is to help you use that investment by training you to better engage with your subdivisions and neighbors.

• NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH:

Taking time to prayer walk your neighborhood and distribute invite cards to your neighbors regularly.

• MISSIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

Our goal is to connect you with your neighbors through missional groups in your home. These groups give opportunities for connection and topical studies based on Pastor Chris' teachings on marriage, parenting, finances, and more.

• MATTHEW PARTIES

We will teach you to impact your neighbors through personal connection by hosting unchurched friends and neighbors for dinner. Following the model of Jesus, we can connect them with the church, even if they wouldn't accept an invitation to church directly.

LOVE YOUR WORLD

The heartbeat of First Bentonville is to take the Good News to our neighbors and to the nations. We send our people around the world on short-term mission opportunities to help reach individuals that have not heard the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. Our vision, over the next several years, is to see our partnerships get stronger, new partnerships form, and our reach with the Gospel become more effective. We desire to be a church in Northwest Arkansas that is known for taking the Gospel to our neighbors and the nations!

At First Bentonville, we have strategically partnered with ministries that have the same heartbeat as our church family. There are several ways we partner with these ministries.

STRENGTHENING - praying for our partners

SUPPORTING - financially supporting our partners

SERVING - sending short-term mission teams to help our partners

Other ways we're going to love our world:

- Church Planting
- Sex Trafficking Ministry
- Touching Poverty
- Engage online with communities around the world

PARTNERING REGIONS:

- Montana
- Alaska
- Mexico
- Europe
- Middle East
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- The 10/40 Window





OUR GOALS

• We want to begin to upgrade and expand our ministry tools. (sound systems, video, building and parking, etc.) Therefore, we desire to see \$2M invested in kingdom expansion for the overall vision.

• Plant 5 self-sustaining churches in the next 10 years. In addition, we desire to partner with numerous church plants.

• We want to engage 100 subdivisions with personal outreach.

• We want to have 100 missional small groups engaged in our community.

• We desire to expand our online reach to three languages to increase the Kingdom's influence around the world. (Spanish, Portuguese, and French)

• In 2024 we desire to see 60% of First engaged in the Abiding Life journey.

• We want to see 25% of the church engaged in Partner's in Prayer ministry.

• We desire to expand our volunteer impact by 50% by the end of 2024.



GENEROSITY CHANGES EVERYTHING

Our 15:5 Goal: \$2 million

God is generous and He calls us to be as well. What we do with what God has given us shows the world where our hearts are and helps proclaim the gospel. We want to glorify God with every area of our lives, and that includes what we do with our finances.

Each step of the journey represents growth in a lifestyle of generosity and sacrifice.

GIVING JOURNEY

INITIAL GIVER: Deuteronomy 16:17

An **INITIAL GIVER** is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the church with this gift.

CONSISTENT GIVER: 1 Corinthians 16:2

A **CONSISTENT GIVER** is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well, of course; it just requires more discipline.

INTENTIONAL GIVER: Luke 14:28-30

An **INTENTIONAL GIVER** is someone who thinks about giving in relation to their other financial priorities. This giver starts to make giving an intentional choice that reflects how to prioritize it in relation to other things on which they spend money.

SURRENDERED GIVER: 2 Corinthians 8:3-5

A **SURRENDERED GIVER** is someone who recognizes the power of the gospel and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A surrendered giver is someone who gives in a way that changes them, in a way that reflects that their giving is governing their spending/ saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A surrendered giver isn't just concerned with what they **ARE** giving but is more concerned with what they're **NOT** giving and why. They seek to honor God with **ALL** He has given them, whether that means direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource.

ETERNAL GIVER: Luke 21:1-4

An **ETERNAL GIVER** is someone who is thinking about the long-term effect of generosity rather than just the short-term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. An eternal giver makes decisions in the short-term that have long-term effects as it relates to their capacity for generosity. An eternal giver thinks of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity. An eternal giver is driven by the things of eternity, putting hope in God and not in the things of this earth.



Scan this QR code to give.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers are people who partner with our ministry and take great pleasure in opening the way for others to experience Jesus. Every Christ-follower is uniquely gifted by God and vital to the health and effectiveness of Christ's body.

Volunteers see and serve the people they encounter through our church and the community. Here at First, we strive towards utilizing every available means to reach a city, the nation, and the world.



Scan this QR code to serve.

WE NEED A COMMITMENT TO PRAYER

WE NEED TO COMMIT TO THE ABIDING JOURNEY

WE NEED EXCEPTIONAL GENEROSITY

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER ARMY





WWW.FBCBENTONVILLE.ORG