

## **SERVE THE CHURCH**

Date: Sunday

Location: The Grove Baptist Church Arma, KS

Text: Miscellaneous

### **Greeting**

**S:** If you're a first time guest with us I want you to know that we are thrilled that you'd join us. If you want more information about what The Grove is all about please see one of our staff members afterward.

**S:** In under a month we will be launching our Pittsburg location. The building is looking great. If you've helped paint, hand out invites, watched kids, etc. I want to express deep thanks. I also want to remind us all that this is for Jesus' kingdom. Don't forget our work day this upcoming Saturday from 10a-6p. Lunch will be provided by First Baptist Church of Riverton—Pulled pork and ribs.

**Q:** How will you use your **now** to change someone's **forever**?

### **Prayer**

Give us a glimpse of the future. Equip us to do the work that you've prepared for us beforehand. Give us a confidence when we talk about you. Overwhelm us with conviction for serving the kingdom with our affections, our intellect, our spirit and physical abilities.

### **Sermon Setup**

**Illus:** An architect designing a building. The Eiffel Tower, the Freedom Tower, Dubai Tower, your house

**App:** Great churches that are focused on Jesus, serving effectively, evangelizing, growing in discipleship, etc. are **never** an accident. They are structured, intentional, organic and natural.

### **Sermon**

**Intro:** The culture of Chick-fil-A. I have had two bad experiences **ever** at a Chick-fil-A. Why are they so successful? Because they know that the culture they create is more important than any purpose or mission statement you could put on a building. The vision won't happen without the right culture.

**S:** Tonight's sermon is about the **culture** of The Grove and then we'll spend the next two weeks on the **vision** we have for the future. My prayer is that God will take the natural nature of a Grove and turn it into an orchard in Southeast Kansas in order that we could eradicate the number of lost people in our area.

### **P1- SEE AND SHAPE THE FUTURE**

**W/Illus:** Digging Ditches, 2 Kings 3:8-18a, "9 So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom set out. After they had traveled their indirect route for seven days, they had no water for the army or the animals with them. 10 Then the king of Israel said, "Oh no, the Lord has summoned these three kings, only to hand them over to Moab." 11 But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here? Let's inquire of the Lord through him." One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat, who used to pour water on Elijah's hands, is here." 12 Jehoshaphat affirmed, "The word of the Lord is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went to him. 13 However, Elisha said to King Joram of Israel, "What do we have in common? Go to the prophets of your father and your mother!" But the king of Israel replied, "No, because it is the Lord who has

summoned these three kings to hand them over to Moab.” <sup>14</sup> Elisha responded, “By the life of the Lord of Armies, before whom I stand: If I did not have respect for King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I wouldn’t look at you; I would not take notice of you. <sup>15</sup> Now, bring me a musician.” While the musician played, the Lord’s hand came on Elisha. <sup>16</sup> Then he said, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Dig ditch after ditch in this wadi.’ <sup>17</sup> For the Lord says, ‘You will not see wind or rain, but the wadi will be filled with water, and you will drink—you and your cattle and your animals.’ <sup>18</sup> ***This is easy in the Lord’s sight.***”

**App:** God is sovereign and does as He wills. But that **does not** excuse our lack of action.

**Q:** What happens if you don’t dig ditches and the rains come? **Flash floods!**

**Illus:** The ‘Big Ditches’ of Wichita.

**Quote:** “I’d rather be a Christian surrounded by empty ditches than someone who played it so safe I never took any risks.” —Joshua Gagnon

**Vs18-** This is no biggie for God!

## **P2- ENGAGE AND DEVELOP OTHERS**

**Illus:** Jesus developing the 12

**Q:** Are you investing in someone currently?

**W:** 2 Timothy 2:2 ESV, “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.”

**APP:** The church needs faithful men. Now, we need faithful women as well. But there is a deficit of males in our churches in North America. Every Sunday in America there will be an average of 80% women and 20% males in attendance. The biblical structure for church leadership is clear. The church is to be led by God-fearing men.

**Challenge:** But what do we do instead...?

**APP:** “If you’re too busy to do this you’re too busy to be a Christian.” —Jonathan Pokluda

**S:** You don’t have to be a professional to do this!

**Illus:** Mrs. Gardner

**SERVE CHALLENGE:** We need help in every area of the church. Maybe you can help us in our kid’s ministry. Amanda could use your help!

**S:** The truly helpless are people who have enough in this life they see no need for saving.

## **P3- REINVENT CONTINUOUSLY**

**S:** The only constant at the Grove is Jesus. Everything else will change

**i.e.** Our music style won’t always be the same. My preaching style won’t be the same. Our buildings won’t stay the same. Our church members and attenders won’t stay the same. Our Home Groups won’t stay the same. But Jesus will **remain our permanent constant.**

**W:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ESV, “<sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all

things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.”

**Q:** Are we so married to an idea of **a** church that miss out on being **the** church?

**APP:**

—We don't love our musical style more than lost people or church members

—We don't love our décor more than lost people or church members

—We don't love our 'name' over **the Name**

—We don't love ourselves more than others

—We don't love ourselves more than we love God

**Q:** Why do we do this? **A:** To win those outside of relationship with God.

#### **P4- VALUE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESULTS**

**S:** We naturally lean one way heavily. I don't know anyone who is just well balanced.

**APP:** We want to love people. But we can't love people at the expense of the **truth**.

**Illus:** Mark 11:12-14, 15-19—Jesus cursing the fig tree

**S:** The great symbolism is that Jesus was referring to the ones who should've had the most reverence for Him. Yet, they had no respect for Him, His authority or the purpose for which He came.

**S:** I love in v15 as they're walking past the tree again and Peter, the quick to speak, big-mouthed apostle, says, "Hey Jesus... There's that tree you got mad at. What was up with that?"

**S:** I can only imagine the other 11 apostles we like, \*eyes closed, praying\* "Peter, please don't say anything. Don't say anything!" Then, 'boom'. He does it!

**S:** There must be fruit in your life if you're a repentant follower. If there's no fruit you're not a repentant follower, you're a repetitive faker.

**Note:** This church is about Jesus and his kingdom. We **will not** create more space or experiences for half-committed nominal 'christians'. There needs to be **evident fruit**.

**S:** I'm not talking about an overwhelming harvest. Fruit is fruit. It may be small and a little under ripe but it's fruit.

**S:** Jesus was a loving, relational guy who expected **results**.

**W:** John 6:64-69 ESV, "<sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." <sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

**S:** Jesus was saying, "If you don't want to be a part of my kingdom, then leave."

**APP:** Again, Jesus' love for us is deeper than any we could ever experience. His expectations are higher as well.

## **P5- EMBODY THE VALUES**

**Q:** What are our values?

**A:** Matthew 4:19 ESV, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

***Seek Jesus***

***Surrender to Him Daily***

***Share the Gospel with the World***

**S:** The only way to serve the Grove is to be wholeheartedly **committed** to Jesus.

**APP:** The saddest thought for me as a pastor is the fact that there will be people who come through this church or any other church who will be more committed to the pastor and the church's mission statement than to Jesus and His Great Commission.

### ***Beeline***

Jesus, before time began saw what He'd have to do to make us right with Him

Jesus, invested his time on earth into a ragtag group of men who we'd never trust

Jesus, brought a new covenant and told relevant stories to save lost people

Jesus, developed relationships **and** expected results from his followers and the lost

Jesus, even unto death, was fiercely obedient to His Father and now reigns at the right hand

### ***Call to Action***

- 1) What dreams do you have to serve in God's kingdom?
- 2) What people has God put in your path to invest in?
- 3) What are you attached to that might keep you from reaching people the way God wants?
- 4) Are you producing results and protecting relationships?
- 5) Are you taking up your cross every day to chase after Jesus with everything you have?