

#ForOurCity Initiatives 2017-2018

1. #ForOurCity Gospel Presentation Initiative

The goal is to **present the gospel to 100,000 people** within our community within the next 10 years with the hope that 10% would say yes to Jesus. That means for THE CHURCH in this area, collectively we need to present the gospel to 10,000 people each year with the hope that 1,000 will come to Christ. Based on the size of your church, what is your part in this initiative? Let's get more intentional about reaching people for Christ. More details to follow.

2. #ForOurCity Worship Workshop

Saturday, September 16, 9:00-12:00 noon at Tri-State Fellowship (for Worship Pastors, Leaders, and Worship Teams). Workshop led by Fike, songwriter who wrote the #2 Christian song of 2016, We Believe, recorded by the Newsboys.

3. #ForOurCity Worship Gathering

Sunday, September 17, 6:30 pm at Tri-State Fellowship. Event is free. Love offering will be taken for Brooke's House. Led by Fike. This gathering is for the body of Christ to come together in worship, asking God to continue His amazing work in our community. New #ForOurCity worship song will be unveiled.

4. Day of Hope Events

Saturday, October 14. To be held at four different locations in the NW, NE, SW, and SE quadrants of the city. These will be mini-Convoy type events designed to come together as THE CHURCH, and to encourage our guests of honor with the love of Christ. Mark the date. More details coming soon.

5. #ForOurCity Sermon Series

October 21/22 – November 25/26. Series designed around the book of James. More details on other side of this handout.

6. 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

January 7-28, 2018. Mark your calendar now. Prayer guide will be available closer to the end of 2017.

7. Other Initiatives

- **Adopt-A-Block** – what if each church adopted a block, built relationships, and shared the love of Christ with that block in real and practical ways? And what if we adopted another block each year over the next 10 years?
- **Houses of Hope** – what if we identified houses within our adopted blocks where a Christian lives? And what if we trained that family to be a “House of Hope”?
- **Adopt-A-School** – there are dozens of ways to share the love of Christ in schools (i.e. CEF, FCA, Young Life, Youth for Christ, Micah's Backpack, School Volunteers, Reading/Literacy Programs, Tutoring, Mentoring, Learning Parties, Trunk or Treat, School Supplies, Equipment Purchase, PTA Involvement, Thank You Luncheon, Tissues Project, etc.)
- **Church Partnerships** – rather than competing, how can we work together to reach our community for Christ?

For Our City Sermon Series – October 21/22 – November 25/26, 2017

Last year we saw the beginnings of a movement. The “For Our City” sermon series became the launching point for churches throughout our area to collectively address the needs around us. United by Christ’s love, propelled by Christ’s mission, we’ve had the privilege of extending hope to a city that many have deemed hopeless.

This year, let’s keep that momentum going.

The book of James is one of the oldest letters contained in today’s New Testament, yet his words ring with resounding urgency. James reminds Christ’s followers of the need for dynamic, living faith—a faith that is never comfortable with dividing belief from action. As men and women who embrace the electrifying good news of the gospel, we become the conduits through which God’s grace is communicated to our families, to our neighborhoods, and to our city.

Overview:

Week One (October 21/22): Source of Compassion (James 1:1-18); Issue to Address: Christian Unity

- If “crises reveal character,” then the needs of our city represent an opportunity for the body of Christ to demonstrate gospel-motivated compassion. In a world full of fashionable “causes,” the Church represents the abiding character of Christ.

Week Two: Action of Compassion (October 28/29) (James 1:19-27; James 2:14-26); Issue to Address: Foster Care/Care for the Family

- The answer to perceptions of religious hypocrisy is not less religion, but deeper, true religion. James tells us that this sort of religion is manifest in caring for widows and orphans. Today’s Church can put their faith into action through foster care and caring for families in our community.

Week Three: Motivation of Compassion (November 4/5) (James 2:1-13; James 3:1-18); Issue to Address: Social Division/Marginalization

- Division persists along political, racial, and socioeconomic lines (cf. James 2:1-13). The way we speak about others often reinforces these divisions (cf. 3:1-12). But because the gospel eradicates selfish ambition, God’s people can pursue peace.

Week Four: Transformation of Compassion (November 11/12) (James 4:1-12; James 5:13-20); Issue to Address: Addiction

- All sin is a form of dis-ordered love—a desire misdirected toward something other than God (cf. James 4:1-12). Addiction is no different; its roots simply run deeper. As the body of Christ, we can work together to cultivate a community of healing (cf. James 5:13-20) and elevate Jesus as our supreme love.

Week Five: Urgency of Compassion (November 18/19) (James 4:13-17); Issue to Address: Poverty

- Poverty flourishes when we care for our own needs ahead of others. James reminds us of the brevity of life and encourages us to trust in the sovereign plans of God. The gospel saves us from finding identity in material things, and thereby frees us to use our resources to show God’s love through our generosity.

Week Six: Eternal Impact of Compassion (November 25/26) (James 5:1-12); Issue to Address: Human Trafficking

- James condemns those who take pleasure at others’ expense. While James speaks of wealth and materialism, we see this same thing happening today in the context of sexual exploitation. There are strong links between pornography and human trafficking. The images we consume only fuel a culture of dehumanization. The solution is to repent of our tendency to use others and to work toward the rescue of these victims.