

## The DNA of the Early Church

There are three parts to the DNA of the early Church:

**Divine Truth**  
**Nurturing Relationships, and**  
**Apostolic Mission.**

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February 1 –“Divine Truth”

### **Just what do we mean when we say "Word of God"?**

Basically, the "Word of God" is whatever God wants to say to us. Yet it is so much more. John 1 tells us that Jesus IS the Word of God in the flesh. Further study of Scriptures reveals that the words of many prophets in the Old Testament and people in the New Testament are called the "Word of God." Most of us probably think of the Bible when we hear that phrase.

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February 8 –“Divine Truth”

### **Five Principles for Studying the Bible**

Martin Luther used to say the Bible is like the manger that held the Christ child. In many Christmas scenes, we see people kneeling before the manger to worship, but they are not worshipping the manger. They are worshipping the Christ child who is in the manger. So, also, we do not worship the Bible. We worship the Christ who is found in the Bible.

The Bible is only a means to an end, and that does affect how we approach and interpret Scripture. We read the Bible to learn about *Jesus Christ*—and about things that are related to him. We want to know about the God of Israel who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to know about the Holy Spirit whom Jesus has given to us. We want to know about prayer, through which we maintain our relationship with Jesus. We want to know about morality so that we can live the way that Jesus wants us to live. We want to know what Jesus knows so that we can do what Jesus does... and, in that way, we become the face of Jesus for our world.

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February 15 –“Nurturing Relationships”

### **Growing in Our Connection With God**

God created man with the dust of the ground and *made him a living being with His breath*. He created nothing else in which He used part of Himself to create! We were created to have intimate relationship with our creator and He has given us the most intimate connection... His Holy Spirit.

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February 22 – Weekend Experience (Feb 25 is Ash Wednesday)

### **A View from the Mountaintop**

We take a break from our **DNA** theme to focus on Jesus and his experience on a mountaintop in northern Israel. Jesus took with him three of his followers: Peter, James and John. On that mountaintop something wild happened - something these followers would never forget! From that moment on, Jesus moved relentlessly towards Jerusalem... and another mount called Calgary.

Scriptures for reflection: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

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March 1 – “Nurturing Relationships”

### **Growing in Our Connection With One Another**

Christ gave a command to love one another as He has loved the church. Loving without conditions is impossible for us apart from Christ. Before His death Jesus told His disciples that He would send The Holy Spirit to take abode in His believer’s. If we are to love like Christ we must allow The Holy Spirit to lead the way! Acts 2:4 tells us that *“They were filled with The Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* (NKJ)

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March 8 – "Apostolic Mission"

### **Sent: Our Commission**

Jesus said to his followers: "Go!" He *sent* them... on a mission... to carry on the work he began. You see, an "apostle" is nothing more than an individual sent on mission with the full authority of the sender to carry on the work of the sender. Although you and I may not have the title of Apostle, nonetheless, we are still *sent*.

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March 15 – "Apostolic Mission"

### **Sent: Sharing Our Story**

If we are *sent* by Jesus, what's our mission? Where does my life connect with Jesus? And what does that have to do with YOU? Hmmm... tough questions. But we'll try to answer them best as we can.

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