



LESSON ONE – First Gear

▶ PLAY VIDEO SEGMENT ONE

In this video segment, Pastor Gene shared a bit about the history of Crossroads, and defined the PURPOSE of our church experience, which is to:

LOVE _____

LOVE _____

& SERVE _____

Jesus gives a clear and compelling argument for the life direction of Christians and the church when he says, recorded in Matthew 22, *“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is equally important, Love your neighbor as yourself”*. We know this passage of Scripture as:

The GREAT _____.

And in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus sets the course for his followers by declaring, “I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this, I am with you, even to the end of the age.” We know this passage of Scripture as:

The GREAT _____.

The truth for those of us who call ourselves followers of Christ is that our lives are meant to be used for God's purpose. Our Christian journey is not one of spiritual self-indulgence, but one of taking our life experience, and what we have learned from Scripture, and investing it in the lives of others – those in the family of faith, and those outside the walls of the church.



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Our PURPOSE – to Love God, Love Others and Serve the World – happens through CONNECTIONS, specifically these 3 CONNECTIONS:

- ▶ (WEEKEND WORSHIP) services connect us to GOD.
- ▶ (SMALL GROUPS) connect us to EACH OTHER.
- ▶ (SERVICE) connects us to THE WORLD AROUND US.

WEEKEND WORSHIP (Four Reasons to Attend)

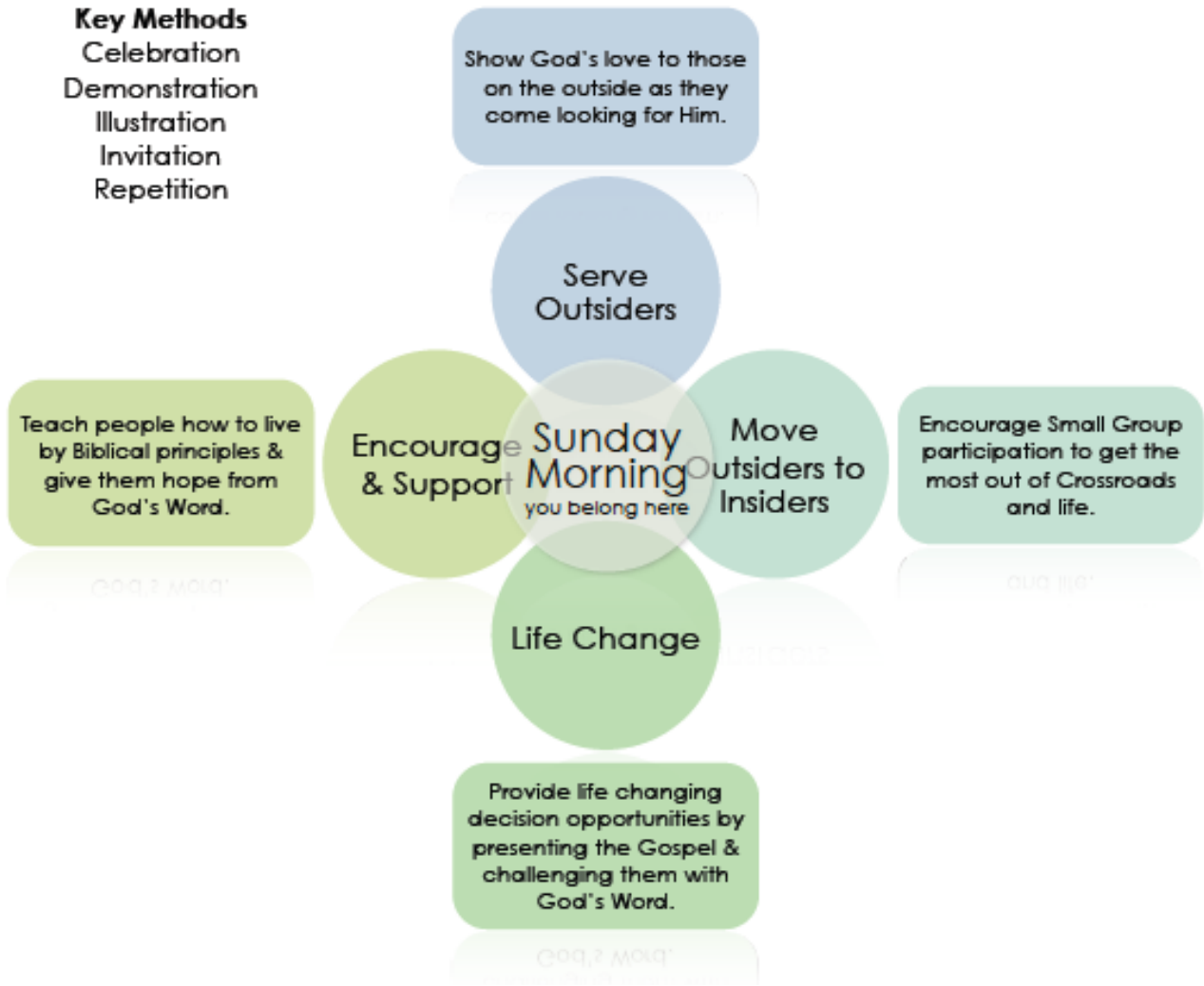
Crossroads weekend worship services are designed for:

1. **ENCOURAGEMENT** and **SUPPORT** – Teach people how to live according to Biblical principles and values, and give them HOPE from God’s word.
2. **LIFE CHANGE** – Provide life-changing decision opportunities through a clear and compelling presentation of the Gospel, and challenge people with the TRUTH of God’s word.
3. **SERVE OUTSIDERS** – Demonstrate God’s love in tangible ways to outsiders as they come to Crossroads seeking Him.
4. **MOVE OUTSIDERS to INSIDERS** – Encourage small group participation so that people can get the most out of their Crossroads experience.

Here’s what that LOOKS like:



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From the time someone gets out of their car in the parking lot on Sunday morning, until the time they leave for lunch, every area of ministry in the church – *Greeters, Lobby Service, Ushers, Nursery, Pre-School, Kindergarten, Elementary, Worship Music, Visual Arts, and Teaching* – embraces CELEBRATION, DEMONSTRATION, ILLUSTRATION, INVITATION and REPETITION as the Key Methods to ensure the purpose of weekend worship at Crossroads is achieved.



SMALL GROUPS (Four Ways to Grow)

Crossroads small groups are designed for:

1. **RELATIONAL GROWTH** – Growing relationally as you share your burdens, your joys, and accountability through fellowship with your small group family.
2. **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** – Grow spiritually as your small group prays, studies God’s word, and acts out God’s love together.
3. **SERVING THE CHURCH** – Your small group leader connects you with an opportunity to serve others in the family of faith in a way that fits your unique skills.
4. **SERVING THE WORLD** – Your small group works together through service projects to share God’s love at a community and global level.

Here’s what that LOOKS like:





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At Crossroads, we've designed a clear path for spiritual growth for a person at any stage of life, or any level of spiritual maturity. Weekend worship points us to God. Small groups point us to one another. Service points us to others. Along this path our faith grows as we learn about God and demonstrate to the world what Jesus meant when He said, *"Love one another"*.