



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

11 OCTOBER 2026

11 OCTOBER SERMON

Values that ACC Upholds: F.A.M.I.L.Y

PASTOR BOBBY MATHEW

Based on Acts 6:1-7 and the ACC Church Values (F.A.M.I.L.Y.)

Overview

This week's sermon introduced the six core values of Alive Community Church, drawn from the pattern of the early church in Acts 6. These values are not abstract ideas on a wall - they are meant to shape how we live, lead, serve, and relate to one another as a spiritual family. Together they form the acronym F.A.M.I.L.Y.:

- **F** -- First Century Faithfulness
 - **A** -- Approachable and Accountable Leadership
 - **M** -- Mission-Mindedness
 - **I** -- Inclusiveness and Belonging
 - **L** -- Loving Community
 - **Y** -- Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit
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Opening Reflection

Take a few minutes before discussion begins to read Acts 6:1-7 together as a group. As you read, notice how the early church responded to conflict, how they prioritized their calling, and what kind of people they looked for to lead.

Key Takeaways

- 1. The early church was not perfect - but it was faithful.** Problems arose, but the apostles responded with wisdom, accountability, and a commitment to the Word of God. Our church will face challenges too, but our values help us navigate them well.
 - 2. Values are not just institutional - they are personal.** Each of these six values is something every individual member is called to embrace and live out, not just the leadership team.
 - 3. The church is a family, not a corporation.** Families include, forgive, serve, and stay together through difficulty. These values reflect that kind of community.
 - 4. Love is the supreme ethic.** As referenced in 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, love is not just a feeling -- it is a decision to bear with others, to forgive, and to give even when it is not reciprocated.
 - 5. The Holy Spirit is the source of everything.** Without yieldedness to the Holy Spirit, the other values cannot be sustained. The early church sought God before acting, and so must we.
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Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. When you think of the word "family," what comes to mind? How does that image shape the way you think about what a church should be?

2. Before today, what did you think were the most important values of this church? Did anything from the sermon surprise you or challenge your thinking?
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First Century Faithfulness

3. The sermon emphasized that ACC looks to Scripture - specifically the pattern of the early church in Acts - as its primary guide, rather than any single historical figure or tradition. Why do you think that distinction matters? How does it affect the way we approach decisions as a church?
 4. Pastor Bobby mentioned that first century principles must be applied wisely in a 21st century context. Can you think of an example where a biblical principle required thoughtful application in your own life or community?
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Approachable and Accountable Leadership

5. The image of Jesus washing his disciples' feet was used to describe servant leadership. What does servant leadership look like in everyday, practical terms - in a church setting, in a workplace, or at home?
 6. What does it mean to be part of a community (whether at work or elsewhere) where leadership is genuinely accessible? How do you think this would help the church?
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Mission-Mindedness

7. The sermon described evangelism and missions as a lifestyle, not just a program. What would it look like for you personally to live with a mission-minded posture in your daily life - at work, in your neighborhood, or with your family?
 8. Pastor Bobby shared how decisions like streaming services and holding camp in Kuala Lumpur were made with mission in mind - to reach people beyond the church walls. Can you think of a decision you have made, or could make, that reflects that same outward focus?
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Inclusiveness and Belonging

9. The "empty chair" was a powerful image from the sermon - the idea that every group should always have space for someone new. Is there an "empty chair" in your life right now? Is there someone on the edges of your community who could be drawn in to the church community?
 10. The early church in Acts 6 faced a situation where one group of people was being overlooked in the daily distribution. Who are the people in our world today who are most easily overlooked or excluded? How can we as a small group be more intentional about including them?
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Loving Community

11. The sermon said that love is most visible not when everything is going well, but when people fail, when conflict arises, or when someone disappoints us. Can you share a time when you experienced or extended that kind of love? What made it difficult? What made it meaningful?
 12. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 together. Which aspect of love described there do you find most challenging to live out consistently? Why?
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Yieldedness to the Holy Spirit

13. The white flag was used as a symbol of surrender to God. What does it practically look like for you to surrender control to the Holy Spirit in an area of your life where you tend to rely on your own wisdom or plans?
 14. Pastor Bobby said that yielding to the Holy Spirit can feel "scary" because it means releasing control. Have you ever experienced God leading you somewhere unexpected when you let go of your own agenda? What happened?
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Practical Applications

- **Scripture:** Spend time this week reading Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 6:1-7. Reflect on what the early church prioritized and ask God to show you where those priorities are present - or missing - in your own life.
- **Empty Chair:** Identify one person in your life who feels on the outside of community - a neighbour, a colleague, someone new at church - and take one intentional step to include them this week. This could be as simple as a conversation, a meal, or an invitation.
- **Servant Leadership:** Whether or not you hold a formal leadership role, look for one opportunity this week to serve someone in a way that costs you something - time, comfort, or convenience.
- **Mission Moment:** Pray specifically for two or three people in your life who do not yet know Jesus. Write their names down. Share those names with your small group and commit to praying for them together.
- **Surrender:** Identify one area of your life - a relationship, a decision, a plan - where you have been holding tightly to control. Spend time in prayer this week specifically surrendering that area to the Holy Spirit.
- **Love in Action:** Think of someone in your life with whom there is tension, distance, or unresolved hurt. Ask God to show you one concrete step you can take toward reconciliation or renewed love.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying through the F.A.M.I.L.Y. values as a group. You may choose to pray through each one briefly, asking God to make these values real in your lives individually and as a community. End by surrendering your group - its plans, its relationships, and its future - to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." -- John 13:35