



Focus on the Five Practices: Congregation-Wide Initiative

Radical Hospitality

Passionate Worship

Intentional Faith Development

Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Extravagant Generosity

These are the Five Practices of vital, fruitful congregations. These ideas aren't secret or new, but they are the practices that can lead to excellence and growth in the life of our church. And they are the practices we will be focusing on for five consecutive weeks, **beginning October 10th and ending November 5th**. This initiative is designed to stimulate conversation and commitment about the mission of the church throughout the entire congregation, helping people understand the "why" of church life which is the source of real motivation and passion for ministry.

Just imagine what can happen if everyone in our congregation will spend five weeks—just thirty-five days—reading, praying, discussing, and focusing on these Five Practices. God can change individuals, entire families, and our whole church—thus changing the difference we can make in and beyond our surrounding community.

You are invited to participate in this exciting emphasis in a variety of ways:

Sunday Morning Worship

The entire worship service during the Focus on the Five Practices will be centered on the practices of fruitful congregations beginning October 10th. Adult Sunday school classes will be discussing each practice as well as the children's Sunday school classes.

At-Home Devotional Readings

Cultivating Fruitfulness, the devotional book we will read together as a congregation during Focus on the Five Practices. The members of every household are encouraged to read these devotions, Scriptures, prayers, and challenges together during the five weeks. Each week, we'll read together about the practice that we'll focus on in the upcoming Sunday worship.

Daily Devotional Reading Schedule:

Radical Hospitality— Monday 10/4-Sunday 10/10

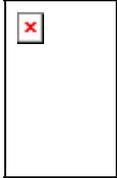
Passionate Worship— Monday 10/11-Sunday 10/17

Intentional Faith Development— Monday 10/18-Sunday 10/24
Risk-Taking Mission and Service— Monday 10/25-Sunday 10/31
Extravagant Generosity—Monday 11/1-Sunday 11/7

Planning Groups

This is a time to make plans and dream about the best we can be as a congregation. If you are interested in focusing on one of these practices, you are invited to join a Planning Group. Planning group members will attend group meetings, participate in discussion, contribute ideas, and help create a plan that will stimulate conversation about short- and long-term goals to improve the congregations practice and fruitfulness.

Dates for Planning Groups:



Monday, October 11: *Radical Hospitality*
Monday, October 18: *Passionate Worship*
Monday, October 25: *Intentional Faith Development*
Monday, November 1: *Risk-Taking Mission and Service*
Monday, November 8: *Extravagant Generosity*

Church-wide Community Outreach Projects

The Leadership Team decided to focus on the Veterans of our community during our Five Practices Focus. We ask every person to join us in showing our appreciation to this group of people. Please help with the following projects:

Care Packages

Shower Herrington's enlisted men, Aaron Hartong, Jeffrey McNabb, and Dan Iden with goodies from home as well as words of encouragement. Cards and items acceptable for the care packages will be passed out in church. Please have your items and note cards turned in by **Sunday, October 10th**. Bring your kids and help pack up the items for the guys on **Wednesday, October 13th at 6 o'clock**. We want to get them sent out soon so that they will have them by Veteran's Day.

Veteran's Day Dinner

Say thank you to the veterans of Herrington Church, the American Legion and VFW of Carrollton by helping put together a nice dinner for them on Veteran's Day, **Thursday, November 11th at 5 o'clock**. There will be opportunities for you to cook/bake, set-up/tear-down, decorate, serve drinks/food, and make our guests feel welcome. We need the efforts of the whole church to make this event the best it can be for our veteran's. We need YOU!

Adopt-A-Vet

This is a special way for each and every member of our church to get involved in our community. In the back of the church will be a couple of trees with paper fruit hanging from them. On the fruit, you will find the name of a veteran who lives at either the Golden Age Retreat or the Carroll Healthcare Center. Please take at least one name and visit that person **by Veteran's Day** to say thank you and show them that they are appreciated. You don't have to go alone 😊 Talk with others at church and go together! Take your kids with you to make it a family thing. Have your kids take a thank you card...you get the idea. Take it a step further and continue to follow up with that person after Veteran's Day. Send them a card throughout the year, visit on their birthday, or come up with an even better way of reaching out and showing the love of Christ.

Celebration Sunday

Tentative date is **Sunday, November 28th**. The morning service will be devoted to celebrate our Focus on the Five Practices from the previous month. We would like to hear from each of the planning groups, personal testimonies, and see pictures from the initiative. Please help us celebrate this time of renewal and commitment.