

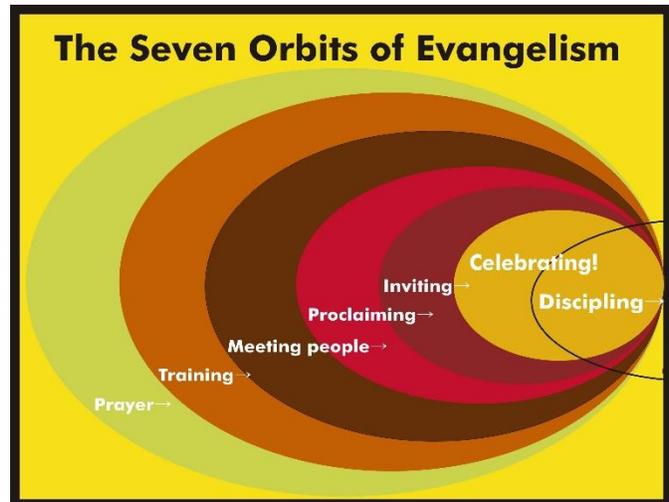


## The Foothills Flyer

### Let's Keep Orbiting Together by Rod Pauls

Value: Holistic Discipleship

Even though we are coming to the end of the Evangelism *Forward* at Foothills training (the 5W5), we do not have stop thinking about, or being involved in, evangelism. Quite the contrary! We want to continue moving forward and growing in this key area of the Christian life and of our church's vision. And by moving forward I actually mean that we should keep moving in the **Seven Orbits of Evangelism**.



Each of these orbits is a key piece of what it takes in order to be effective in evangelism, both as an individual and also as a community of faith. We want to be a community of faith that carries people to Jesus. Not everyone feels comfortable and/or competent in each of the orbits... and that's okay. We want you to invest yourself well in the orbits where you feel strongest and also be willing to grow in the orbits where you don't feel quite so strong. Here is a quick overview of the **Seven Orbits**:

**Prayer**—everyone can pray and everyone should pray. If you are praying for your family members, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors and so on then you are participating in the Seven Orbits. Prayer is foundational and everyone can be involved in this way.

**Training**—this also is something that everyone can do. Whether it's reading a book, attending a class, watching a video or learning "on the job," we want to see as many people at Foothills trained as possible.

**Meeting people**—We all meet people every day. But are we engaging with them intentionally? Are we getting to know them, asking questions, exploring possible connections to spiritual topics? We will never have opportunities to share Christ unless we also have conversations with people who need to know him.

**Proclaiming the gospel**—Many Christians struggle here and not everyone feels comfortable in this orbit. But at least we can learn how to share the gospel in a clear, courteous and compelling way and when we have an opportunity we can take a step of faith and see what happens. It is crucial that the gospel be shared by someone in order for another person to come to faith.

**Inviting to faith**—Sharing God’s story is great, but we also need to be willing to ask our friends if they want to respond. Many people are waiting for just such an invitation. This orbit feels scary and very risky, but it’s so worth it when our friend says “Yes!” to Jesus.

**Celebration**—There is great joy in heaven over a sinner who repents and comes to faith. There should be joy at Foothills as well. We all can celebrate so don’t let the smaller size of the orbit fool you!

**Discipling**—Once someone has come to faith there will be a need to help that person grow in their newfound faith. Those of us who feel less confident about sharing the gospel may be able to come along-side a young Christian and help them grow spiritually. This is an “all-play” strategy and we want to see everyone “play.”

Which orbits are you most naturally drawn to? Do those with your whole heart. Which ones are you a little uncertain of? Take a small step toward growth in one or more of those. The challenge for the next several weeks is to learn how to share your own story of coming to faith and to learn how to share God’s story and then to share either your own story or God’s story with at least one other person before Easter Sunday. I’m eager to hear the exciting reports that we will tell each other as we do this.

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## **The Benefits of Church Membership** by Joe Eastman

**Value: Biblical Leadership**

Church membership is one of those topics which is hotly debated today. In one corner, many people say that because there doesn’t seem to be a formal membership in the New Testament, churches today shouldn’t have one either. Some people think of church membership as an anachronistic practice with no relevance today. Here at Foothills this question of membership has been asked quite a bit, mainly by new members and seekers. I thought it would be a good idea to lay out the biblical case for church membership and to clarify the process here at our church.



While the New Testament church doesn’t have a formal membership in the way we often think of, it does have all of the aspects which we commonly ascribe to membership. Church membership is about three things: accountability, commitment, and community.

In Hebrews 13:7 we are reminded of the responsibility of church leadership. We are reminded that church leaders are those who will, “give an account.” Furthermore, the author of that epistle tells the church that it is to their benefit if their leaders are able to shepherd them effectively. Church membership is a formal way of acknowledging that this particular group is your church and that the particular group of leaders are your spiritual leaders. If the New Testament requires leaders to shepherd their flock, then it is very helpful to know who is in the flock and who isn’t. While I am sure there are no pastors who would not minister to anyone inside or outside, there is a level of accountability which pastors share with their flock.

In the early church there wasn't very many options for church. In the days of the New Testament writers there was often only one church in each city. Sometimes these church were made up of many smaller house churches but they were in essence one church with one set of leaders. Today, there is a plethora of churches. Many Christians for many reasons, some good and some not so good, choose to leave one church and attend another. Church membership is important because it identifies you as someone who is making a commitment to a particular church. You are actively declaring that you have decided to stay at one place and are committed to the health and wellbeing of that particular church. Like a marriage certificate, there is a sense of security which comes with some kind of formal declaration.

Another aspect of church membership is community building. In Acts 6:3 the Apostles told the church to choose deacons from among their number to serve the church and help the Apostles. This process implies that the church saw itself as a select community. In reality, the idea of being a unique or "peculiar" community is integral to the Gospel. If Jesus really saved us and called us, then we are separate from all others groups.

In light of the importance of church membership, we do have a process of membership here at Foothills. There are essentially three steps, and the process usually takes about three months to complete. Step one is to fill out a membership form. This form is simply used to introduce yourself and your family to the leadership. It asks for basic info such as family info, address, and salvation and church history. The form is given to the elders who will make an appointment to visit you to get to know you further. After that a vote is taken at one of the elder meetings and a date is set to confirm you on a Sunday morning during the service. We also ask that you attend a new comer's luncheon to get any questions answered during this three months.

If you are a member then I hope this article reminds you how important your decision was. If you are considering membership then I ask you to prayerfully consider taking the plunge.

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## **HELP YOUR KIDS BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD AND BELIEVE** by Mike Potter

**Value: Intentional Families**

Gregg Allison is the author of [Understand What You Believe About God and Why](#), a book designed to help kids develop a theologically sound understanding of the doctrine of God. In this conversation with Pastor Mike, Gregg addresses issues like knowing about God vs. knowing God, the jealousy of God, God's wrath vs. God's love, and more! Gregg is Professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition to his teaching experience, Gregg also has 18 years of ministry as a staff member of Campus Crusade. Here's an excerpt from their conversation...



**Many people might say that kids aren't ready for deep theology. How would you respond to that?**

Let me give an illustration. In the middle of August, we launched a two and a half day seminary course for high school students. The invitation was this: For two and a half days come and join us for intense worship, intense Bible Study, and good discussion on theological topics. We invited 60 students and ended up with 120. At the end of two and a half days, they did not want to leave; they wanted to go deep with God! They had more truth about Him and were really wrestling with how to apply God's character to their life. They were thrilled by it; they did not want it to end.

**In the book you differentiate between believing in God and knowing God. How can parents explain this difference to their kids?**

When I think about just believing in God, I think of a box in my mind that I can check off and say, "Yes, I give intellectual assent to the notion that God exists." It doesn't affect my life. When we talk about knowing God, that implies an intimacy of relationship; there's a give and take, listening and talking, learning, discovery. If we differentiate and really focus on knowing God, then I think students will catch that. I think that parents will need to emphasize that in their own life; that they're not just believing in God, but they are very intent on developing this intimate, personal relationship with God. That will model it for their kids.

When I was growing up, the society at large believed in God. It was pretty much that you were either Catholic or Protestant and maybe even Jewish. Today that has completely changed. My daughter just graduated from high school and faces this reality every day. There were thirty seven different nationalities and religions in her high school that she attended. Her question to me was, "What is the difference between the God of Christianity and the god of Islam? What's the difference between the God of Christianity and the gods of Hinduism?" The questions that teenagers are asking today are most likely very different than what their parents were asking when they were growing up at that age.

**As Christians, we know that God is truth. How do we help our kids grab a hold of this when the postmodern culture is telling them that there is no absolute truth?**

We need to talk about where truth comes from. It comes from our true God who determines what is true and what is false. He always communicates truly so we can rely absolutely on His Word – which is completely true and therefore trustworthy. Because God is true and God is the standard of truth, then He expects that we, as His image bearers, would reflect that kind of truth in our lives. We are about the business of telling truth; we put aside falsehood.

In one of Paul's letters, he tells us that we should tell the truth to one another because we're members of one another. That means that when people ask us about ourselves, we don't exaggerate, but we don't minimize. When people ask us to make a commitment, we say "yes" or "no" and then we carry through with that. It's the idea of living this truth that I think will help teenagers in a postmodern world understand that there really is truth out there, but people are just denying it intellectually.

So, it's dependent on the parents to not fudge on the truth, because kids are looking for truth. If we can convey that to them through our lifestyle, then they can maybe grasp the concept that God is the truth.

*To listen to this interview in its entirety and for much more parenting help, log on to [www.parentinghelpnow.org](http://www.parentinghelpnow.org).*

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

- Men's Hike: **March 25th**
- Men's Theological Discussion group: Wednesday **March 15th**. Topic: "The Unseen Realm"
- Women's "beautiful Feet" food, fellowship and feet (pedicures). **March 18th** 2pm to 4pm at the church.
- Faith Defender's Class on Mormonism starts Sunday **March 12th** at 9:00am

**OUR MISSION:** Foothills Fellowship exists to be a worshiping community of God's people whose lives are shaped by the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and who participate in the mission of God's kingdom by proclaiming the good news locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR CORE VALUES:** 1) Jesus Christ, the Head 2) Biblical Leadership 3) Everyone A Minister 4) Ancient/Future Worship 5) Hospitality Without Exception 6) Unity in Community 7) Intentional Families 8) Global Missions 9) Holistic Discipleship