

faith and fruit.

SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Inside you'll find a Spiritual Assessment Survey everyone within Grace Gathering was asked to complete. While attendance, finances, and programs are the typical measurements of success for the western church, Jesus modeled and taught a different way. We want to measure success in terms of **Faithfulness and Fruitfulness** as we become more like Jesus in character and spiritual influence of others. Jesus taught us to do this more and more in community with others.



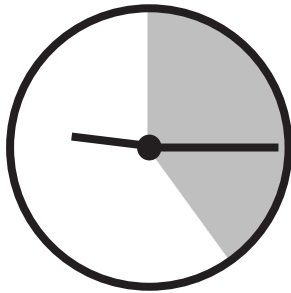
**faith
and
fruit**

who we are.

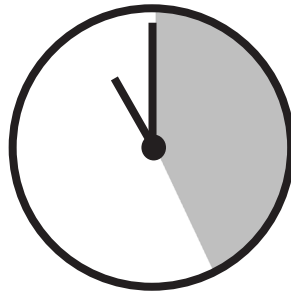
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING GRACE?



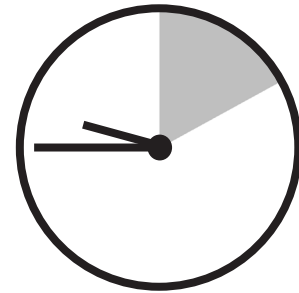
WHICH SERVICE DO YOU NORMALLY ATTEND?



9:15A / 40%
EAST SITE

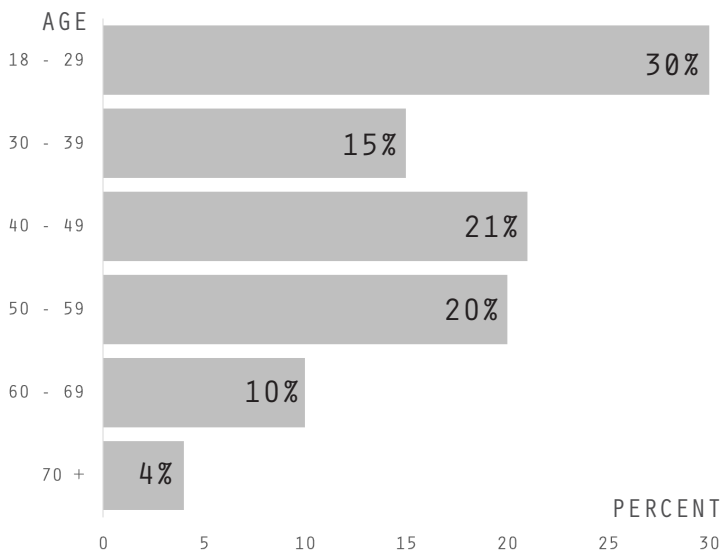


11:00A / 43%
EAST SITE

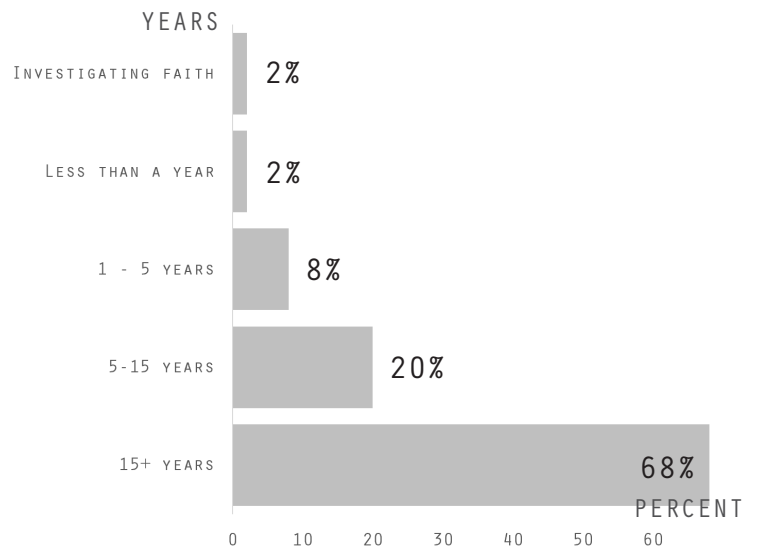


9:45A / 17%
NORTH SITE

WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



HOW LONG HAVE YOU FOLLOWED JESUS?

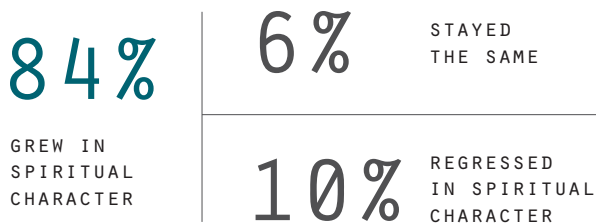


are we growing?

One the primary ways we want to measure growth in Grace Gathering is by tracking how people grow in specific areas of discipleship. We asked everyone to share if they felt like they had grown, regressed, or stayed the same in the past year.

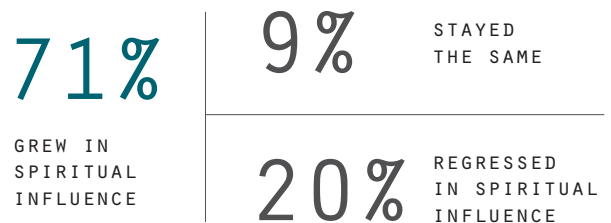
SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

Over the last 12 months, do you feel you have grown in your spiritual character (e.g. fruit of the Spirit, loving enemies, devotional life, giving, purity, prayer, humility, compassion etc.)?



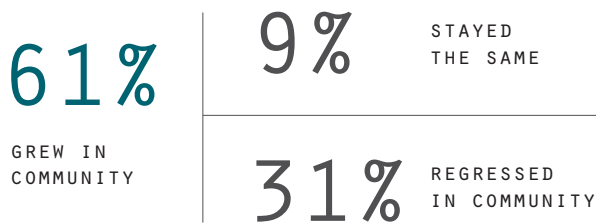
SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

Over the last 12 months, do you feel you have grown in your spiritual influence of others (spiritual gifts, sharing the gospel, discipling, praying for others, healing the sick, blessing the least, lost, and last, etc.)?



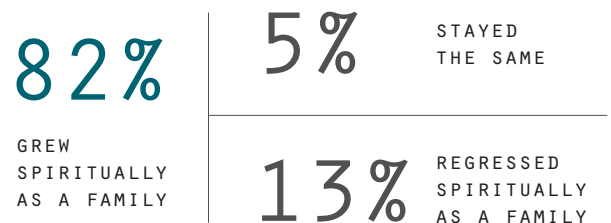
SHARING LIFE

Over the last 12 months, do you feel your walk with God and fulfillment of mission are being pursued more in community with others? In other words, do you feel you are sharing life with other believers consistently, where it feels like family?



FAMILY GROWTH

Has your immediate family (spouse and children if applicable) grown spiritually the last 12 months in spiritual character and leadership?



discipleship culture.

Most statistics tell us that 20% of church attenders do 80% of the ministry. While serving in the church within various programs is helpful, the reality is that less than half of church ministry is directly engaged in intentionally discipling people in both the character and skill of Jesus. This means that statistically in the U.S. less than 10% of church goers are either intentionally discipling others or being disciplined themselves. Churches that have a plan for discipleship and are seeing more than 10% of their people in these relationships are leading the way out of this discipleship crisis in the western church.

DISCIPLING YOU

Do you have someone who is intentionally discipling you on a regular basis and helping you grow in your spiritual character and leadership?



DISCIPLING OTHERS

Are you intentionally discipling specific people in your life (outside of your family) to help them grow in both their spiritual character and leadership?



MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

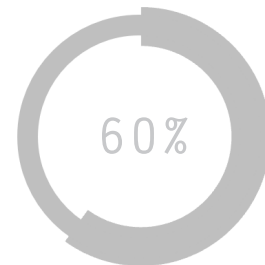
Loving God, each other, and the lost—in community with others...



I'M A PART OF A FORMAL MISSIONAL COMMUNITY



I'M A PART OF AN INFORMAL FAMILY ON MISSION



NOT INVOLVED IN AN MC OR MISSION ORIENTED GROUP

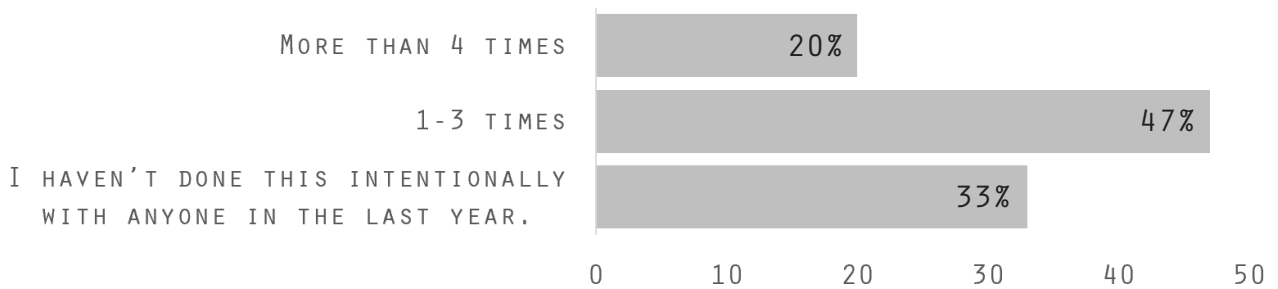
everyday missionaries.

Grace Gathering is currently in a season of helping everyday followers of Jesus grow in their identity as missionaries. We want to grow in our ability to capitalize on spiritual conversations and outreach opportunities to help investigators develop a relationship with God.

The focus is on both people's character/heart of loving others outside of the faith and also in the skill/confidence of sharing the gospel. Below is a recap of how people have responded to this season and stepped out in faith.

SHARED THE GOSPEL

How many times in the last year have you shared the gospel with someone and encouraged them to surrender their life to Jesus in faith?



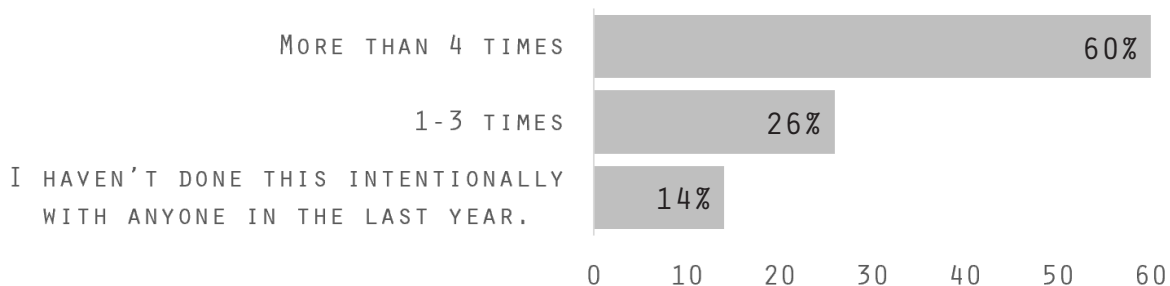
WHY YOU HELD BACK

When you haven't explained the gospel with those in your life who need Jesus, what has been the main reason?



PRAYING FOR HEALING

How many times in the last year have you prayed for someone (in their presence and out loud) for God to bring physical healing in their body?



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

NEW ATTENDERS

20% of responders report attending Grace Gathering for less than 1 year, while only 2% of those are new to faith within the last 12 months. This means 18% of our new attenders have come for other reasons. Although this can signal many good things, such as greater engagement with God in worship, mission, community, etc. We would still like the number to reflect more people coming to faith.

MISSIONAL

The percentage of our community not involved in formal mission communities continues to decline to 21% (from 34% last year). While some of those are shifting from formal to informal arrangements of missional community life, a 4% shift, there are 8% who have moved out of missional community in any form. Still, well over half, 60%, of our congregation are not involved with a community of people sharing life and mission together. Part of the movement in this area can be attributed to the fact that this past year has been a season of outreach focus for us. This does indicate a need to re-emphasize this dimension of ministry life in the future.

STRENGTHS

NEW ATTENDERS

57% of our population have been attending Grace for five years or less. This is up from 40% just 4 years ago. It's exciting that we continue to reach new people.

YOUNG ADULTS

Nationally, the percentage of young-adults who have dropped out of church continues to rise. Today, a record high, 64%, of U.S. 18-to-29 year olds who grew up in church tell the research organization, Barna, that they have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult after having been active as a child or teen.

While this is a troubling statistic, the good news at Grace Gathering is that this is not the trend we see. While the age demographic in our congregation is very diverse, we continue to experience an increase in the 18-29 age group. 45% of our population is in the 18-39 age categories, 30% of which are 18-

29. Grace Gathering is a place where young adults are coming to be equipped, discipled, and empowered to lead. Whether it is through FORM, our young adult leadership training program, Encounter, Sons & Daughters Worship School, Empowered International, our internship program with New Haven Senior High School, or by finding a place on the staff and leadership teams here, they are discovering Grace is a place where they can grow, serve, and thrive in ministry and mission.

SHARING THE GOSPEL AND HEALING

Last year we gave considerable attention to the personal responsibility and practice of sharing the gospel through our First Love initiative. The great news is that even though the First Love series ended many months ago, more and more Grace attenders are continuing to reach out to people with the good news. Our survey shows that 67% of believers have shared the gospel at least once in the last year. 20% of those people had shared it more than 4 times! Let's celebrate and keep reaching out in love to those around us.

In the area of healing, 86% of respondents have prayed directly for God to bring healing to another person's physical body in their presence and out loud. Though this is a drop of 8% from last year's data, we should be encouraged by the fact that so many of our family are finding the freedom and authority (86%!!) to intercede for others in healing!

DISCIPLESHIP

The Barna Research Group notes that 73% of Christians claim their churches stress the importance of spiritual growth. Yet, of those same believers, only 20% are involved in some sort of discipleship activity. That means 80% of Christians are not involved in any sort of spiritual growth activity nationwide.

In contrast to this alarming statistic, 49% of attenders at Grace Gathering are receiving intentional investment from another disciple. It is also worth noting that 47% of our community are intentionally investing in others. This is 8% higher than when we first began recording this statistic and 27% over the national average. We continue to try to offer a variety of discipleship options (classes, small groups, bible studies, Seeking God studies, etc.) for both participants and leaders and providing specific training in the areas of Exploring Family on Mission and leading Mission Communities.

CONTINUED SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND INFLUENCE

Our responses to the four questions on spiritual growth continue to remain at high levels. 61% of respondents feel they have grown in the area of sharing life, 81% feel their family has grown spiritually in the past year, 71% have grown in their leadership

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influence with others, and 84% feel they have grown in spiritual character growth. Overall, these numbers indicate that Grace is a body of believers that are pursuing growth in their relationship with God personally and in their families. They also realize the importance of leading and multiplying that growth in others.

EXPECTATION AND EXPRESSION IN WORSHIP

Two new questions were added to the assessment this year. The first measured growth in our physical, biblical expression in corporate worship (e.g. lifting hands, kneeling, bowing, dancing, shouts of praise, clapping, etc.). 72% of us responded as experiencing significant growth in this area. The second question measured growth in the area of expectation of encountering God in our corporate gatherings (sensing him speaking to you and prompting you to respond in specific ways from the Holy Spirit, etc.). We experienced similar growth (74%) there. As this is new data, we have nothing to compare from previous years. However, it is very encouraging that God is both raising our expectation and simultaneously tearing down the barriers that allow us to enter in to worship together in heart, soul, mind, and strength! "Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord." (Psalms 134:2)

IN CONCLUSION...

The Barna research suggests that a majority of Christian adults believe that their churches are doing pretty well when it comes to attending to the spiritual development of their people. Conversely, church leadership believes that the opposite is true. Only 8% of church leaders believe their own churches are doing well discipling their people. This is why we value this yearly assessment. It helps to give us a clearer picture of what is happening, as opposed to simply depending on perception or intuition. Though this data is not a perfect representation of what is happening in our community, it does indicate where we can celebrate, as well as opportunities where we can grow individually and as a community on mission. To that end, as we depend on God's saving work and sovereignty in all things, we also want to attend to our human responsibility in the sanctification process and "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling." (Phil 2:12)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10 ■

