

## Growing Deeper

*“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly, and a great many (people) became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7)*

### THE Long-range Goal for 2017 and Beyond

To make Jesus’ invisible kingdom visible in Winter Haven, Polk County, and the world by being a praying community of Jesus’ disciples, *gathered in multiple congregations in each quadrant of our city and totaling 1000 people*, who embody the truth of the gospel and spread the gospel in both word and deed.

**Our Rallying Cry for 2017:** Growth through revival

### Objectives:

1. To grow *DEEPER*. An emphasis on discipleship and leadership development.
2. To grow *BIGGER*. 400-450 in attendance on Sunday mornings in two services at RCC.
3. To grow *YOUNGER*. Seeing the next generation embracing and expressing their faith.
4. To grow *MORE DIVERSE*. Reflecting the diversity of our city.
5. To emphasize prayer in every facet of the church’s life – praying for revival.

### Case for Growing DEEPER:

“But as for you, teach what accords with *sound doctrine*.” – Titus 2:1

**Strategy for Growing DEEPER:** Community Bible Reading (CBR)

### The Case for COMMUNITY Bible Reading (CBR)

It is not enough to just read the Bible. We need to read the Bible together.

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. – Hebrews 3:12-13

<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts “sprinkled clean” from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works... - Hebrews 10:22-24

**Community Bible Reading – HOW?**

Four Movements during your Bible Reading:

1. **SURRENDER** through Prayers for Illumination and Transformation

2. **LISTEN** to the Scriptures: **Luke 8:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, <sup>23</sup> and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. <sup>24</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup> He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

3. **PRAY** through your pen

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adoration:</b> Adore God for His Attributes &amp; Actions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Confession:</b> Confess your sinfulness &amp; Repent</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thanksgiving:</b> Give thanks for Jesus (i.e. the Gospel)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Supplication:</b> Ask the Spirit to transform you in particular ways</p>

4. **PREPARE** for Gospel Community

What has God taught you today that you could share with others?

Who can you encourage with specific truths from todays passages?