

GAME PLAN for **GROWTH**



A RECAP OF OUR RECENT HISTORY

It has been exciting to be part of what God is doing here at First Denham. Since we moved to this new site in 2017, God has been showing up and people continue to join our fellowship. The COVID-19 pandemic created a disruption to our way of life but since then, we have come back stronger and more committed to the mission of reaching people with the gospel and the vision of being a regional life-transformation center.

In the last few years, consider what God is doing...

- Our Kids' Ministry has exploded to where we needed to build a new children's building.
- Our student ministry grew to the level where it was necessary to create separate junior high and high school ministries.
- We just completed the construction on a new student building to accommodate the growth in this area.
- Space in the old children's wing was repurposed to accommodate the growth of adult Connect Groups.
- We are completely debt free!

In short, God has been showing up in our church!

We believe it's time to take some further steps to MAKE SPACE for future growth.

Beginning in the new year, we will be implementing some new changes that we need your help with...

- Our FirstKids' Ministry will be moving to a **full 2.5-hour schedule**.
- Our JH & HS Ministries will begin offering Connect Groups at **both 9:30 & 11 AM hours**.
- Our Adult Connect Groups will need to begin **distributing across the 9:30 & 11 AM hours as well**.

ALL THESE AREAS OF GROWTH REQUIRE WILLING SERVANTS

To accommodate these changes, our children and student teams are having to reimagine their ministries to have a heart for those who are not here yet and create opportunities to make space for them to come. **We need adults to do the same.**

Currently, 21 out of our 24 Adult Connect Groups meet at 9:30 AM.

We need groups of all age demographics to consider changing the hour they meet.

In order to make space for growth, we need to purposely distribute our Connect Groups over the 8:15, 9:30, & 11 AM hours. (Primarily 9:30 & 11) This will require willing servants to see the big picture of making space for growth and reaching people for Christ.

An Awesome Opportunity for Families

We cannot accomplish this vision without more people willing to volunteer in various ministry areas. The greatest need is our FirstKids' Ministry, followed by our student ministries, Connections team, and so on.

A great opportunity presents itself for families as we make this change. Every individual and family has the opportunity for spiritual growth in **three vital areas:**

WORSHIP



ATTEND A CONNECT GROUP



SERVE



What Does this Look Like?

	8:15 AM	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
All Ages	Worship (Traditional)	Worship (Modern)	Worship (Modern)
Children	Childcare/Nursery	Nursery, Connect Groups	Nursery, Kids' Worship, 4th & 5th Grade Connect Groups
Students	Hangout	Connect Groups	Connect Groups
Adults	Connect Groups	Connect Groups	Connect Groups

With adult Connect Groups spread across all three worship hours, individuals will be about to attend worship, attend a small group, and serve in some ministry capacity.

- **Scenario 1:** Jossie attends the 8:15 traditional service. She goes to her Connect Group at 9:30. And she serves in the children’s ministry at 11.
- **Scenario 2:** Peter goes to his Connect Group at 8:15. He goes to worship at 9:30. He then leads a student Connect Group at 11.
- **Scenario 3:** Greg drives a golf cart at 8:15. He goes to his worship at 9:30. He then goes to Connect Group at 11.
- **Scenario 4:** Stacy goes to worship at 8:15. She leads a teaches a kids’ Connect Group at 9:30. She serves at the Connection Desk at 11.

Simply put... This will unleash our ministries here at First Denham.

We will have the ability to engage more people with the gospel with space for future growth. The spiritual maturity of our church will also grow as more people have the opportunity to use their spiritual gifts in service of others.

CHALLENGES WE MUST TACKLE

- ▶ We need some Connect Groups to be willing to meet at 11 AM. (Remember, this is no change to your Sunday morning schedule)
- ▶ We need volunteers who are willing to serve in various ministry needs.

Kids' Ministry Needs	
Immediate Needs	January Start Needs
16 Helpers	12 Helpers
<p>8:00 - 9:15 AM Nurse (2)</p> <p>9:15 AM - 12:00 PM Check-In Desk (2) <small>(Once a month)</small></p> <p>9:15-10:45 AM Nursery (5) Kindergarten (1), 2nd Grade (1), 5 Grade Girls (1)</p> <p>10:45 AM - 12:00 PM Special Needs (4) <small>(Once a month)</small></p>	<p>9:15 - 10:45 AM 4 Year Olds (2), Kindergarten (2), 2nd Grade (2), 3rd Grade (2), 4th Grade (2)</p> <p>10:45 AM - 12:00 PM 4th & 5th Grade (2)</p>
28 Unique Helpers Total	

Children's ministry helpers are by far our greatest need.

Children are the future of our church and our community. Our most important investment as a church is in their spiritual development.

Studies show that even as the youngest babies, the lessons they learn about God and the bible by the songs we sing and the stories we tell have an enormous impact on their faith development.

*The (#) next to the ministry area represents the number of helpers needed.

- ▶ We need all adult Connect Groups to have an actionable plan on multiplying - that is, commissioning individuals out of your group to go plant a new group. There are many reasons why this needs to happen, but the primary reason is **because God tells us to reach out.**

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FirstKids Needs YOU on Sunday mornings!

<p><u>9:15-10:45 AM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Yr Olds • Kindergarten • 1st Grade • 2nd Grade • 3rd Grade • 4th Grade • 5th Grade 	<p><u>10:45-12:00 PM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th & 5th Grade 
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Visit the table in the Commons to get involved!

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WHY START NEW GROUPS?

“ On average, one new group will reach a total of 10 new people, creating life and energy in a church’s group ministry.

Ken Braddy - Lifeway, Director of Sunday School ”



New groups maintain more of an **outward focus**



New groups are more likely to be **evangelistically effective**



New groups provide opportunities for more people to be **engaged**



New groups provide an **equal playing field** for friendships to develop



New groups provide more opportunities for people to **serve and lead**



New groups provide **space to grow**



New groups bring **new life** to established groups

At the heart of starting new groups is a desire to reach others with the gospel and make spaces for them to come into community with the church.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR GROUP...

- How would we describe our group...inward or outward focused?
- What would be an obstacle to us moving our meeting time?
- If we switched times, could a good number of our Connect Group members also serve in some ministry capacity?
- Are we willing to set a plan in place to multiply our group?