

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

WHO WE ARE: CORE VALUES SERIES

This three-week series will cover our Core Values at Pennington Park Church. You can read the description for each of them on our website, under About us and [Beliefs](#).

DISCUSSION 1: DRIVEN BY THE BIBLE

1. Read Psalm 19:1–7. Why is the Bible the ultimate and final authority for Christians?
2. What are some of the practical benefits of being driven by the Bible, as an individual and as a Church?
3. What are ways you can grow in being “driven by the Bible” in your own life? What would that look like?

DISCUSSION 2: SHAPED BY THE GOSPEL

1. Read Titus 2:11–14. How does the gospel shape us, form us, and influence every other thing in our lives?
2. Why do we need the gospel, not just for salvation at conversion, but for daily grace and growth as believers?
3. What are some marks of a person or church not shaped by the gospel, or not deeply living in and governed by the gospel?
4. What are ways you can grow in preaching the gospel to yourself on a daily basis?

DISCUSSION 3: KNOWN AND EMBRACED

“To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us.” Tim Keller

1. Read Eph. 2:11–22. How did Jesus unite believers together as a family?
2. What are reasons we might struggle to be known and embraced or resist it? What can make it difficult in the Church?
3. How can we not just wait for others to come after us, but how do we intentionally pursue knowing and embracing others and choosing to be known and embrace? In other words, rather than waiting for biblical community to come to us, how do we help cultivate it?
4. Read Romans 12:9–16. How do these give us a picture of living out this core value?
5. What’s one way you can go deeper with the people of this church God has put in your life?

DISCUSSION 4: UNITED IN CHRIST AND DIVERSE

“More depth of beauty is felt from a choir that sings in parts than from a choir that sings only in unison. Unity in diversity is more beautiful and more powerful than the unity of uniformity. This carries over to the untold differences that exist between the peoples of the world. When their diversity unites in worship to God, the beauty of their praise will echo the depth and greatness of God’s beauty far more than if the redeemed were from only a few different people groups.” John Piper

1. Read Eph. 2:11–16; 4:3; Col. 3:11; 1 Cor. 12:4–7, 12–20. How did Jesus objectively unite us or make us one as God’s people?
2. Does unity remove all distinctions or diversity? Or, is unity the same as uniformity? What are some of the areas of diversity within the Church?
3. How can our diversity within the body of Christ actually magnify Jesus more than if we were all the same?
4. Even though Jesus makes us objectively one (united) as a people, it takes work to subjectively experience, keep, and strengthen that unity. What are some potential causes of disunity within the Church? What are ways we can seek to maintain and strengthen our unity in Christ?
5. What is one way you can lean into this core value over the next few weeks?