



Welcome to Shadow Rock Church and our 101 Class: How to Join. It is a privilege to have you as part of our church. This class will explore the vision and values of our church.

Some choose to attend a church because of what they *get*. We commit to a church, however, because of what we can *give*. Committing to a church is connecting with Christ's passion to demonstrate his love and grace to a lost and dying world.

My prayer is that this class is a wonderful experience as you consider God's direction in your life.

Pastor Craig

Class Outline

- How Did You First Start Coming to Shadow Rock?
- Shadow Rock's Vision, Values, and Process
- Shadow Rock's Affiliations
- Shadow Rock's Partnership Commitments

“Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.”

-Ephesians 2:20-21 (NLT)

Who is the “CHURCH”?

What is the Church?

Church (Ekklesia) = assembly “called out”

- Jesus said, “ ...I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”
-Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

Christ’s Church is an assembly of Christ’s people empowered by Christ’s presence.

- Together, we are the Body of Christ.
- Individually, every person is a minister.

Christ’s church is universal in nature but local in expression.

- We become members of the universal church through personal salvation.
- We become members of a local church through specific commitments.

Our Vision - “What We Want To Do”

Demonstrate the love of Jesus to every person in the Coachella Valley through a prayer-care-share lifestyle.

- Prayer
- Care
- Share

The Jesus Process of Growth

Religion’s Model

- 1) Behave
- 2) Believe
- 3) Belong

Jesus’ Model

- 1) Belong
- 2) Believe
- 3) Become

Love like Jesus. We will *like* people who are not *like* us through a belong-believe-become commitment.

Belong: “Love Like Jesus Loved”

Truth: Jesus liked people not like him:

Matthew 9:10-12

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Truth: Jesus loved even his enemies:

Luke 23:34, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Matthew 5:43-45

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Action: We will engage our community, love and pray for people not like us regardless of who they are, what they’ve done, or what they believe.

Believe: “Turn, Believe & Receive Christ”

Truth: God is morally perfect (holy).

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Truth: We are not morally perfect. We have all sinned (“missed the mark”) and we can never be good enough to earn or deserve God or His promise of Heaven.

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

Truth: There are two immutable truths about God’s character: 1) God is holy and just—sin must be punished. 2) God is love—He loves all of humanity. The tension between God’s love and justice is resolved in Christ’s death on the cross.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Truth: *It is only through God's grace that our sin can be forgiven.*

Ephesians 2:8
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Truth: *We receive God's grace through putting our faith in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection from the dead.*

Acts 2:38
Peter replied, "Repent (*Turn*) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9
If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Action: *We receive God's offer of grace by putting our faith in Jesus.*

Action: *We are baptized in water, if we have not been already.*

Become: "Serve Like Jesus Served"

Truth: *We are called to grow in our faith and Christ-likeness*

1 Peter 5:5-8
5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Truth: *We are called to serve, bear fruit and represent Christ in the world.*

Colossians 1:9-11
We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience...

John 15:16
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Action: *We strive to grow through personal study, small groups and classes.*

Action: *We seek to serve God and others through volunteer service.*

Action: *We endeavor to demonstrate our G-R-O-W Values.*

GROW Values - "Who We Are"

We Want To Be a Place Where People Can GROW To Become Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.

Generous Hearted

- As stewards of our time, our talents and our treasures, we seek to be people who serve wholeheartedly, give unselfishly and care sacrificially.
- We want to be known for what we give away, not what we take for ourselves – and we want to do it with joy.

Relationally Connected

- Recognizing the God-given need for loving relationships, we seek to be involved in committed friendships and families, supportive small group networks and effective ministry teams.
- We want to be a place where people are more important than programs and relationships are more important than events.

Outwardly Focused

- Given the great need in our world for people to know Christ and experience His loving power, we seek to be the kind of church that does not exist for itself.
- We want to be a church whose direction is decided by our mission, not our personal preferences.

Worship Centered

- Because we were created by God's hand to live for His glory, we seek lifestyles full of the Holy Spirit, honoring God in both purity and praise.
- We want to be people of faith for whom encountering God's presence is more important than being entertained.

How Can We Help Your GROW?

What Do We Believe?

We believe the Scriptures are inspired by God and are the only infallible and authoritative written Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Bible explains that we've all fallen short and missed the mark of God's plan and standard for our lives. The bible calls this "sin."

Romans 3:22-23

22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

As a result, we've separated ourselves from God and have all gone our own way.

Isaiah 59:1-3

1 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken falsely, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

But God loves us and gave us a chance for a new beginning.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

He sent his only son, Jesus Christ, who was morally faultless before God, to voluntarily die on a cross in our place. He died to demonstrate God's extraordinary love for us and pay the price for our willful neglect of God and his standards.

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What Do We Believe?

Three days after laying down his life to be crucified on a cross for us, Jesus rose again to life.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

Because Jesus was raised to life, we too can know that we have eternal life in Heaven

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

John 5:24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

The only way that God provides for to go Heaven is through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Because he lives, we can have an on-going, growing relationship with Him.

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

With Christ's help, we strive to live a life honoring to God, following the example of life and character of Christ.

Romans 6:8-11

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

What Do We Believe?

2 Peter 3:11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Because of what He has done in our lives, we try to communicate and demonstrate the love of God to others through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 1:4-5

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people!

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Ephesians 5:15-19

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What Do We Believe?

All followers of Jesus eagerly anticipate that Jesus will one day return to take us home to be with him forever in Heaven.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

To find out more about what Assembly of God churches believe, please go to the National Assembly of God website: AG.org

Small Groups

Small groups exist as a way for people to engage in biblical community that helps them become more like Jesus in every area of their lives. The following are a few key biblical foundations, ministry purposes, and benefits of small groups.

Biblical Basis for Small Groups

God himself is in a community of three persons in one—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who exist in perfect unity. So it is not surprising that from the beginning, God created us to be in community with one another. Genesis 2:18 states: “It is not good for man to be alone.” This passage is often used in the context of marriage, but it also speaks to our fundamental need to connect with others in the human community.

When Jesus’ ministry began, he called 12 disciples to be his primary relational and ministry community. The apostles continued Jesus’ model and formed a community of believers who loved God and loved one another. Despite incredible persecution and against all odds, this rag tag group of Jesus-followers launched small communities (i.e. church) that proclaimed the gospel and changed the world forever.

Purpose of Small Groups

When we look at the early church we get a picture of small communities of people who followed Jesus together. The Book of Acts, especially Acts 2:42-47, gives us a great picture of the early church and the components of biblical community, which encompassed both the “temple courts” and “house to house.”

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These believers engaged in life together through teaching, fellowship, communion, prayer, miracles, radical generosity, and corporate worship. They spent time together eating, learning, celebrating, proclaiming the Good News, and supporting each other. In addition, the 50-plus “one another” verses in the New Testament flesh out other aspects of this community. For example, it was a place where people loved, forgave, served, bore burdens, encouraged, exhorted, prayed, equipped, spoke truth in love, confessed sins, and treated each other as precious members of one body.

God never intended for us to live the Christian life alone.

In our modern culture, small groups are often viewed merely as a program or a fellowship ministry within the church. But for the New Testament church, it was a way of life, encompassing every area of their lives. Their relationships with one another were critical to their pursuit of Jesus, their growth in Christ, and their witness to the Good News. It would be impossible to experience biblical community apart from spiritually significant, intentional relationships with other believers. Relational structures like small groups, therefore, are an integral part of “being” the church and not just “doing” church.

Character Development Happens Best in the Context of Community

The consumer mentality rampant in our culture has permeated our understanding of community. We focus on what we are going to get out of church or small group rather than what God is going to do in us and through us because of our relationships within community. We need each other to help us know the truth about who we are, who God is, and how we can live in light of those truths. Like iron sharpening iron, the relationships we form within our small communities can become a tool for God to use in our character transformation.

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Small Groups

We live in an increasingly fragmented and disconnected world. Though social media and other technology have made our world seemingly more connected, people have fewer genuine friends than ever before. It feels scary and threatening to allow ourselves to be known or to invest in knowing someone else at a deep level. It is much easier and more convenient to stay on the surface. Yet when we take the risk of being authentic with a small group of people, we can experience God’s grace and love coming through others, which leads to freedom and transformation

John Ortberg writes: “God uses people to form people. That is why what happens between you and another person is never merely human-to-human interaction—the Spirit longs to be powerfully at work in every encounter.” So the goal of small groups is to create environments where Spirit-driven, life-giving experiences can flourish. While the type of group or study can help promote a positive environment, the real things that promote a healthy environment for flourishing are prayer, support, service, confession, worship, accountability, conflict resolution, social gatherings, and simply doing life together. Regardless of the specific guidelines a church may have in their small-group ministry, its objective ultimately is to help people engage in relationships that help them become more like Christ. Spend time building an environment that allows true relationships to flourish.

Small Groups Are on a Mission Beyond Themselves

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 mandates that every follower of Christ is on mission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Jesus gave this instruction to all his followers, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. We, as a small group and as a church, bear collective witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus’ final instructions to his disciples is found in John 13:34-35: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Note that Jesus did not say people will know we are Christians by how many churches we build, how many Bible studies we complete, how many prayers we say, or how many people come to our church. The litmus test is clear: people will know we are Christ-followers when we love each other the way Jesus does.

Theologian Francis Schaeffer asserted, “Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful—Christian community is the final apologetic.” Our non-believing friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors are watching and deciding on the validity of the gospel message. We need others to help us live lives worthy of God’s calling so that people will see the power of God’s love in and through us.

Ultimately, small groups are a way of living out our purpose, both as individuals and as a collective group of believers—to be the church. We share a common foundation of faith and God has called us to live out the implications of that faith in a relational community, in the context that we call a small group.

Small Groups are not a “program” in the church that we can “opt in” or “out” of. It is a foundational distinctive of Shadow Rock Church. We are better together!

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How Are We SHAPED To Serve

Spiritual Gifts

Hearth

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

Areas of Service

- Guest Services
- CARE Team
- Outreach Events
- Creative Ministries
- Small Groups Ministry Team
- Youth Ministry Team
- Childrens' Ministry Team

Ways We Connect

Church Web Site: ShadowRockChurch.com

Tithe.ly: (Church Management Software)

Facebook: facebook.com/shadowrockchurch

Youtube: youtube.com/shadowrockchurch

Twitter: twitter.com/srclq

Online Video Library: rightnowmedia.org

Generosity

The Keystone Habit of Generosity (7 P's)

GENEROSITY IS A GIFT YOU GIVE TO YOURSELF!

Acts 20:35 I...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"

1) **PRIORITY**

Proverbs 3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the *firstfruits* of all your crops;

Most People's Financial Priorities: 1) Live 2) Save 3) Give
Jesus' Instruction for Financial Priorities: 1) Give 2) Save 3) Live

2) **PARTICIPATION**

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give* what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

3) **PERCENTAGE**

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

Deuteronomy 16:17 Each of you must bring a gift *in proportion* to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Luke 21:3 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them.

4) **PLANNED**

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give *what you have decided in your heart to give*, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

5) **PLEASURE**

2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for *God loves a cheerful giver*.

6) **PROGRESSIVE**

2 Corinthians 9:11 You will be *enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion*, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Luke 6:38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. *The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.*

7) **PROMPTED**

1 John 3:17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

Affiliations

Denominational and Church Leadership Structure

A. Nationally

1. We are a fellowship within the Assemblies of God.
2. Our national office is in Springfield, Missouri.

B. Regionally

1. We are a part of the Southern California Network of the Assemblies of God.
2. Our district office is in Irvine, California
3. An area encompassing San Simeon, Fresno, and Bishop, south to the Mexican border.
4. Over 440 churches, approximately 120,000 members and adherents, and over 1,400 credentialed ministers
5. The connection between these churches is primarily our doctrinal beliefs.
6. The style of worship, music, preaching, teaching, and ministry varies greatly among these churches.

C. Our Church

1. We are a corporation with a Constitution and By-laws.
2. We have a Board (Acts 6; I Timothy 3)
3. We have elected Board Members to serve a three-year term.
We meet monthly to:
 - a. Pray
 - b. Review ministry needs
 - c. Review financial report
 - d. Seek the Lord concerning vision development, etc.

D. Staff Pastors

1. We have Staff Pastors who serve the ministries of the church
2. The Staff Pastors are hired by the Senior Pastor with prayerful consideration and input from the Board Team.

E. Lead Pastor

1. The Lead Pastor is sought out by the Board Team with input from the Membership of the church. The will of God is sought after the interview process begins.
2. When agreed upon by the Board Team, the candidate is brought to the Membership of the church for consideration.
3. A vote of the Membership may be called for, and two-thirds majority vote is required to elect. The term is then for an indefinite period of time.
4. There is no perfect process for these matters; but our hope is to glorify Christ even during situations that can be challenging.

Partnership GROW Commitment

I Will Be GENEROUS HEARTED...

- I will joyfully and regularly volunteer my time to the Church's ministries.
- I will joyfully and regularly give of my finances to Shadow Rock Church's support.

I Will Be RELATIONALLY ORIENTED...

- Beyond the Sunday morning gatherings, I will seek to develop life-giving relationships that challenge my spiritual growth by engaging in small groups, classes, outreaches, and other times of connection and fellowship.
- I will protect unity by managing and resolving conflict with others in a godly way.
- I will seek to be generally positive and encouraging to others.

I Will Be OUTWARD FOCUSED...

- I will care for others, refusing to gossip and protecting the church's public testimony.
- I will seek to share my testimony of faith in Christ.
- I will invite others to church.

I Will Be WORSHIP CENTERED...

- I will be baptized in water (if I have not been already).
- I will develop a consistent habit of personal prayer and bible study.
- I will continue to grow a Christ-like life of faith and purity.
- I will worship regularly with the Shadow Rock family and inviting others to join me.

Today's Date _____

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date Your Started Attending Shadow Rock _____