

# nucleus

## what's at the centre

### Part I: Leading People

#### Sermon Big Idea

*Nucleus: The central and most important part of an object, group, or movement, forming the basis for its activity and growth.*

Nucleus is a series all about our church. It's about what drives us and shapes us as a community that is devoted to following Jesus and revealing his love, light, and presence to everyone around us.

Jesus gave his disciples a mission to tell the world about him and to help people become disciples. We still have that same mission today, and we summarize it by saying that at Grand Valley, our mission is **to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus**. This week, we focused on the first part of that statement: How do we lead people to Jesus?

#### Discussion Questions

1. Who is someone that has helped you when you have had questions about faith?
2. What is important about the difference between how we commonly understand the word "church" as a physical place, and the definition of *ekklesia* as an assembly of people gathered or called for a purpose?
3. Where do you go when you have questions about your faith? Who is someone in your life that you can have real conversations with?
4. Pastor Brian talked about two approaches to evangelism that make following Jesus easy to reject. Why is talking about who Jesus is and what he has done in your life a more compelling way to talk about faith?
5. Pastor Brian asked the question; "Are you becoming the kind of person that someone with questions about faith wants to talk to?" What does it look like to be someone who is safe to talk to about faith?
6. Who in your life would you like to pray and ask for an opportunity to invite someone into a conversation about faith, or invite them to church? Take some time as a group to pray for these people.

#### Scripture Passages

##### **Matthew 16:13-18**

Jesus tells Peter that he is the 'rock' that Jesus will build his church upon.

##### **Matthew 28:16-20**

Jesus gives the great commission to his disciples.

##### **John 3:1-3 & 16-17**

Jesus explains his purpose to Nicodemus, a religious leader and pharisee.

#### Definitions

##### ***Ekklesia***

The Greek word that Jesus used in Matthew 16:18 which means: "an Assembly of people gathered or called for a purpose."

##### **Evangelism**

Sharing the good news about Jesus Christ and salvation with everyone