

# Soma Intro

## WELCOME TO SOMA COMMUNITIES SPOKANE

### The Story of Our Church

Why we planted, who has influenced us, and how we're still learning.

### The Rediscovery of the Gospel

Why we start with 10 weeks on the Gospel, clarifying what the central message of Christianity is and how the understanding and applying of that message to everyday life is the heart of discipleship to Jesus.

### Gospel, Community, Mission

Our primary commitments:

- 1) That the Christian life is fueled by an ever-deepening understanding and sensing of the **Gospel** message
- 2) That we are saved as individuals but placed into a **Community** and called to be the church in the everyday
- 3) That every Christian is called to fulfill the **Mission** of making disciples of Jesus as their primary purpose in life

### 3 Environments

We work out these primary commitments in 3 environments:

- 1) **Sunday Gathering:** Our Sunday morning gathering is a key component of our overall mission. We don't see Sunday as an end but as a means - a means of making much of Jesus through gospel proclamation, story-telling, corporate worship, and communion. We want everyone to be here for this weekly gathering to be reminded of what Jesus has done for us (the power of the gospel) and what Jesus has saved us for (the purpose of the gospel). In addition, we desire for everyone to serve monthly in one of 3 areas: Music & Arts, SomaKids, or SomaConnect.
- 2) **DNA Groups:** DNA is shorthand for Discover, Nurture, and Act. These are groups of 3 men or 3 women who meet regularly to study Scripture, remember and apply the gospel through repentance and rejoicing, and encourage one another to walk in the Spirit and live the mission of Jesus. This is one of the primary ways we hope to see everyone in our body engaged in the process of making disciples together.
- 3) **Missional Community Life:** Our goal is that you are living all of life with gospel intentionality, so that Jesus is made much of in your daily activities. Missional Community is not an event you attend (a small group, Bible study, evangelism team, etc.) but a people to whom you belong and with whom you engage in the mission of making disciples both to one another and to those who don't yet know Jesus. To live missional community requires you give up the self-centered comforts of the American dream in order to commit yourself to being with a group of gospel believers in the regular stuff of life. Missional

community isn't a program but a community of people drawing life from Jesus together and wanting to bring others into that life with them.

## How To Get Involved

All of this means that getting connected to Soma can be a little tricky. We aren't a program-oriented church, so it is hard to "plug you in." At first, regularly gathering on Sundays is a good place to start. We want Soma to be a people with whom you are free to rest, to not be "busy for Jesus", to simply learn to enjoy the grace you've been given. We want you to get the good news, to be wrecked and renewed, and to be compelled by the love of Christ.

The simplest place to start - and we encourage you to do so - is to find a place to serve on Sunday mornings. There is no way any of us will be a disciple-maker in the everyday if we can't learn to show up faithfully on a Sunday morning and serve selflessly. Whether you're helping to disciple **kids or youth**, serving with **music or sound**, encouraging others to **connect** with the Soma family, or helping with **facilities**, we'd like to see everyone serving on Sunday in some capacity.

The other great place to start is with Gospel Basics. We take seriously that leadership is called to "equip the saints for the work of ministry." The work of making disciples is the purpose for which Jesus has saved a people called the church, and we need everyone to be equipped to make disciples in the everyday. Taking this course is one key way you can take responsibility for your own development as a disciple who can make disciples.

Beyond that, we will help you find a community of gospel people to start to connect with. Be warned: getting into the rhythm of a missional community's life can be a challenge. Most of our missional communities have what we call "Family Dinner," a weekly connect point for the community to be together, eat, celebrate, tell stories, and remind one another of the gospel. This can be a great place to start, but it isn't "missional community." It is simply one of the many points of connection for a community of gospel people learning to live all of life with gospel intentionality.

## Communication

One tool that Soma uses to help communicate and stay connected is Slack, a simple online or app-based tool designed to help us connect and communicate. We also send out weekly email updates. To sign up for Slack or the Weekly Updates, stop by the Connect Table or talk with [joel@somaspokane.org](mailto:joel@somaspokane.org).

## Count The Cost

Part of our goal in this class is that you'd count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus. Do you realize that Jesus actually told people to *not* be his disciples? On more than one occasion he said, "Following me will kill you." For all of his "come to me all you thirsty" invitations, there was also plenty of "get behind me satan" rebukes.

If you're going to throw in with Soma, and begin by taking Gospel Basics, we're asking you to put aside your assumptions and humbly learn with us. In order to do that, we ask that you come to class prepared, having read and worked through the manual, and ready to engage in the discussion. Take responsibility for your development as a disciple, and ask that the Spirit of God would wreck and rebuild your life for the fame of Jesus, so that many may know how good Jesus is.