

10 Things You Should Know About the Future of Ridge Church:



1. Emily and Kevin (and others) who call The Ridge home are in a difficult spot while we serve God in church planting.

Work, family, finances, life, etc. can get very time consuming and overwhelming as we strive to provide for our families. That has to be goal #1.

2. We are committed to our city and the people who already call Ridge Church home!

Ridge Church folks are all God's people first... But, we love each other and want to live in community together with others God brings our way!

3. We want our church body to grow as many, many people need to hear about Jesus.

Something like 30% of East Tennesseans participate in a church on a given Sunday morning. Many of those 70% don't have a relationship with Jesus. We are "God's ambassadors" to these friends and neighbors!

4. We have two great small groups already that will only get better as we grow in our faith.

Small groups are a great place to find truth, grace and faith, community, and fun! They are a great place to "know and be known." A great place to bring a friend to!

5. Bringing folks into the "harvest" is a team effort, and God calls all of us to the Great Commission.

Check out these 2 important Scriptures quotes from Jesus in the book of Matthew:

Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV):

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV):

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

6. In keeping in line with our Gospel priorities (God first, spouse next, kids after that, and other stuff ordered after those priorities) we are returning to a twice-monthly, purposeful gathering schedule on Sundays.

While meeting in Sunday each week is enjoyable no matter what, we have to make sure we are offering God our best each time we gather to worship.

7. We are keeping in line with our Vision and Core Values and remain committed to having regular service projects and fellowships.

Our Sunday gathering schedule can have the effect of making us inward-focused instead of “outward focused”... Or, “over-programmed” before having those programs is healthy for a young church.

8. We are going to look hard for a worship leader to help us make Sunday mornings fun and ease the pressure on our leadership, while adding to our ministry.

Emily and I have learned some hard hard lessons... In many ways. A big one is that a team ministry is super-important to the health and fun level of a church plant!

9. When we find the right worship leader, and as we reach more people while we serve as missionaries in our neighborhoods, we will move to ramp up our gatherings, but this time we'll make sure to do it with patience.

Sunday is the Lord's Day and we aim to worship Him on that day... And have fun at the same time!

10. We are a church, part of the Church, and will continue to share the Lord's Supper and all other parts of church life, like our first baptism someday soon!

God is at work in our community. He is changing lives inside and outside our Sunday gatherings and small groups. Serving as missionaries is a “stretching” experience but rewarding too!

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