



Journey of Grace

MONTHLY EMPHASIS 2022

By Raquel Ramos



Theme: 2021-2023

A Journey of Grace... discipleship is a journey of learning and growth, accompanying others on their spiritual journey.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me’” John 14:6

“Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.” (Psalm 86:11)

**Intentional Discipleship Through Children's Ministries,
Youth ministries, and urban missions.**

PERMANENT EMPHASES

Praying in the Word

Connecting to the unreached

Teaching and training leaders who disciple others.

Our core values:

We are a Christian people.

We are a Holiness People.

We are a Missional People.

HOW TO CARRY OUT THE EMPHASES?

- Read this entire document in detail with your SDMI team.
- The Pastor and councils are to organize the dates of the 12 Sundays and present each emphasis in their local Church.
- The SDMI director and secretary should coordinate with each ministry leader so that they participate with the emphasis that corresponds to them.

MONTH	EMPHASIS	ORGANIZING LEADERS
January	<i>Education</i>	SDMI, NMI Councils
February	<i>Young people</i>	NYI, NMI, SDMI Councils
March	<i>The Family</i>	SDMI, NYI, NMI Councils
April	<i>Children</i>	Children's Ministries, SDMI, NMI, NYI Councils
May	<i>Women</i>	Women's Ministries (Daughters of the King) Director, NYI
June	<i>Men in the Image of God</i>	Director of Men's Ministries (MIG), NYI
July	<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	Director of VBS, NYI & SDMI Councils
August	<i>Fullness of Life (Sr. Adults)</i>	NYI, Adult Ministry & SDMI Councils
September	<i>Bible Month</i>	SDMI, NYI, & NMI Councils
October	<i>Disability Month</i>	Director of Specials Needs Ministries (Gift of Love), NCM
November	<i>Evangelism</i>	SDMI, NYI, & NMI Councils
December	<i>Unity</i>	SDMI, NYI, & NMI Councils

God's initiative is to seek, attract, and reach humanity through His grace. The initiative for us is to intentionally accompany people who do not know Jesus, establish them in the faith, and teach them to obey the Master until they reach a mature faith: People attract people (2 Corinthians 2:15).

We want to do what Jesus did and live as He lived. Discipleship is the Journey of Grace that begins and ends with Jesus.

The goal of discipleship is to follow Jesus as we, by Grace, become more and more like him.

CALENDAR OF MONTHLY EMPHASES 2022

JANUARY: EDUCATION

Theme: Building a Loving Church

Text: “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all” (Acts 4:33)

Purpose: That Christians would be challenged to reflect the love of Jesus to all they encounter.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Meet with all the workers to review and discuss the SDMI "Mission, Vision, Purposes and Local Strategies.”
- Develop strategies for the proper functioning of the SDMI emphases.
- Be fishers of people, spreading faith and discipleship together.
- Pray and work for the church to become a united community with an atmosphere of love.
- Warmly welcome new people, making them feel accepted and loved.
- With your leaders, form a search and visitation group for the unreached in your community or neighborhood.
- Promote fellowship and communion: celebrate birthdays, have church greeting times, pray for each other, have discipleship groups that meet outside of the building, have 2-3 all-church gatherings each year.

FEBRUARY: YOUNG PEOPLE

Theme: Love as a hallmark of NYI

Text: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

Purpose: To challenge the youth of the church to pray and reach out to their peers through an attractive life of love and caring.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Motivate every teen and young person to be a model of forgiveness, love, and care for newcomers to church or NYI.
- Let each adolescent and/or young person choose who to disciple, teach, or show love for one another.
- Hold youth leaders accountable for helping the youth grow in grace and reflect it in love for the unreached.
- Establish relationships of trust between the disciples, which can meet the needs of being loved, having meaning, and belonging.
- Attract new young people and teenagers to a loving community to spend fun times together.
- Cry out for God's love and grace to be expressed in the lives of adults in ways that impact adolescents and young people.

MARCH: THE FAMILY

Theme: More like Jesus every day

Text: “Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:2)

Purpose: That the family will be filled with fervent love instead of selfishness, as Jesus teaches us.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- May each member of the family seek to resemble Jesus through a culture of love.
- Deliver to each family a letter prepared by the pastor where they are encouraged to live in unity and grace through the love of Jesus.
- Encourage each family to have family devotions/family worship, inviting a family in need and witnessing to them, as well as unreached members of their own family.
- Share news in the church about family victories based on unity, service or unconditional love.
- Watch videos on Christian values in the family: total surrender to Jesus, friendship, sacrifice, forgiveness, tolerance, positive parental models, service to others, social justice, etc.

APRIL: CHILDREN

Theme: God's Beautiful Gift

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

Purpose: To teach children to invest their time, talents, and treasure to help all children know and follow Jesus.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Encourage children to share the good news with other children with their lives and words: pray for them, invite them to all children's activities, approach them, seek to be their friends, ask, listen, give a hug, take them to church, help the one who is sad, laugh with the one who is happy, greet everyone, say nice and encouraging words, etc.
- Have times inside and outside the church, evenings or Saturdays, with uplifting, fun and challenging activities for children.
- Include them in church ministries and activities, giving them opportunities to serve.
- Look for mentors who will accompany them, give importance to their needs, and care about their well-being and care.
- Set up a homework workshop, library, internet games, toy library, or board games to reach children, teens, and the disabled in your neighborhood or community.
- Establish a plan that attends to their needs comprehensively.

MAY: WOMEN

Theme: Grow and abound in love.

Text: “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.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Purpose: To reach and help other ladies grow every day in the image of Jesus.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Help ladies face the challenges of a fractured society by establishing bridges of love: being available to help others, establishing and maintaining healthy relationships, serving, comforting, teaching other women, etc.
- Create groups for reading, parenting, home economics, cooking, service projects, pregnancy, and motherhood for neighborhood women.
- Open a new class or group for ladies that meets during the week where the ladies feel appreciated and appreciate others through instruction and fellowship.
- Help ladies discover their gifts and/or ministry by equipping them for better service and total dedication.
- Start small groups with different emphases: widows, single mothers, divorced, addicted, mothers with disabled children, etc.
- Friendship tea or coffee. (The ladies invite their unsaved neighbors to share a cup of tea. They can have games and of course the Word of God.)

JUNE: MEN

Topic: Administrators of Grace

Text: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

Purpose: To reach and teach new men about Christian fellowship, communion and service by incorporating them into the community of faith.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize and work with men's ministry (Men in the Image of God - MIG)
- Carry out evangelistic activities: hikes, excursions, dinners, conferences, sports, workshops of some type. Show interest, acceptance, friendship and service to all.
- Hold a mini-retreat where topics of interest to the unreached are discussed or practiced, showing the united, loving, serving and friendship faith that prevails in the followers of Jesus.
- Offer lectures for different ages of guys:
 - CHILDREN: (God’s love, showing love and respect for each other and with the opposite sex, dangers of the internet).
 - ADOLESCENTS (sexual orientation; getting along with the opposite sex; loving God, social networks).
 - YOUNG ADULTS (Taking care of your mind, body and spirit, loving yourself, homosexuality, sexual purity).
 - ADULTS (love and family roles, love and service in their personal relationships).

JULY: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: Showing the wisdom and grace of the Lord.

Text: “Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God’s grace.” (2 Corinthians 1:12)

Purpose: That the church shows God’s Grace to children and follow up on the fruit to reach entire families.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Following children’s month (April), have various times of prayer for the upcoming VBS. At the same time, organize the VBS. (See the Manual and the VBS’s provided at the Regional resources page or in the Discipleship Ministries Resources Folder 2022 at www.SdmiResources.MesoamericaRegion.org).
- Have a parade through the community to invite children to the VBS and hand out information and clear and simple directions to the VBS location.
- Promote the "Kids reaching Kids" offering that will help sustain the special project of the year worldwide.
- Form a results conservation committee to develop a discipleship plan for children.
- Don’t forget to record the children's contact info, with the aim of having them visited the week following the event to get them involved in a discipleship class.
- Make children feel welcome, accepted, loved, preferred and honored.
- Take the VBS where there is a need for God's love: a new community, the disabled children in your neighborhood, an orphanage, street children, or invite children and adolescents from outside the church.
- Evaluate the work and continue to connect new parents and children to church activities.

AUGUST: FULLNESS OF LIFE

Topic: Talking about God's Grace (Love)

Text: “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24)

Purpose: To provide spaces and opportunities for senior adults to incorporate others into the church, sharing their faith, their service and their love.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Recognize seniors as an instrument that declares the wonders of God and impacts the community with their way of sharing God's grace.
- Give them the opportunity to be useful within the church: say a poem, share their testimony, sing, give a biblical reflection, teach and disciple others, etc.
- Connect them with young people, adolescents, children and adults so that they can spend time together, advise, bless, teach., etc.
- Ask them to write a letter or a small essay about the theme, "The Church, a Loving Community", where they encourage the church to live in unity, service and love. The winning card can be framed and placed on one of the walls of the church.
- Visit a nursing home, or visit elderly people close to the church and help them in their needs, showing them the Grace of Christ.

SEPTEMBER: THE BIBLE

Theme: The Bible: Divine Standard of Human Conduct

Text: “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.” (Proverbs 3:3-4)

Purpose: To recognize that the Bible calls us to live an integral life in front of everyone.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Through the Bible Society or an app, find a Bible reading plan for the church, either on a topic or specific part of the Bible. Share this with the congregation during the month of celebration or throughout the year.
- Invite church families to look for, and write on a card, a verse that speaks of God’s Grace; these cards can be put on the church walls throughout the month.
- Translate the above verses into practical actions that allow the whole church to show God’s love to those around them in the different contexts in which they live and serve.
- Celebrate the month of the Bible, receiving a special offering to support the Bible Society and Bible League.
- Organize young people to share Bibles, New Testaments, gospels, brochures or Bible verses, in the neighborhood, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, rehabilitation centers, etc.
- Organize Bible contests/quizzing for all ages: questions on a topic or the entire Bible, chapter memorization, books of the bible find, dramatization of passages, acrostics, etc.
- Organize outdoor readings of portions of the Bible. Invite children and teens to read, using a device that amplifies the sound, in the park, sports court, main square, etc)

OCTOBER: DISABILITIES (Gift of Love Ministries)

Theme: God's Grace is for everyone.

Text: “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (2 Cor. 12:9)

Purpose: To reach people with disabilities by sharing the grace of Jesus Christ with them.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize training courses on disabilities for all SDMI workers (*Resources / Manuals in www.SdmiResources.MesoamericaRegion.org*)
- Find out the needs of families and individuals in this condition (if you don't know of someone, take a census or survey in your neighborhood).
- Carry out a project to serve a person with a disability, or their family, in the community or neighborhood.
- Start a support group and/or organize activities to help families who have been affected by disabilities.
- Make everything easily accessible to people with disabilities: parking, bathrooms, ramps, visibility, Bibles with large print, sign language interpreter, etc.
- Provide pastoral care for families with members with disabilities, attending to them at home when they cannot leave their home.
- With NYI, visit an orphanage or a school for people with disabilities.
- Invite disciples, pastors, or missionaries with disabilities to share their testimonies.
- Provide a "Mother’s Day Off" by taking care of children with disabilities.
- God can use your profession if you are a teacher, physical therapist, language therapist, psychologist, sports coach, nurse, musician, etc. and have a passion for serving people with disabilities.
- Remember that they can also contribute to the church: their witness, hope, simplicity, story, joy of living, tenacity, inspiration, acceptance, patience, etc.

NOVEMBER: EVANGELISM

Theme: A mature church that shares the Grace of God with others.

Text: “For this is what the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’” (Acts 13:47)

Purpose: That discipleship become a lifestyle that shows compassion to the lost.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Mobilize the church by Praying, Discipling, Giving and Educating.
- Use the "Growth Campaign" of this year or past years provided by our Regional SDMI on the website.
- Diagnose the most pressing physical, material and emotional needs of the people in the community. Each class selects one and they do a short-term service project.
- Carry out the project of service to a person or family in the community, expressing the love of Christ in your hearts.
- Contact students and prospects who are not involved in a class or small group and invite them, along with neighbors, family, friends, etc.
- Share the achievements proposed at the beginning of the Campaign, and at the end thank God for what was achieved and for the commitment of the church to be light and make new disciples.

DECEMBER: UNITY

Theme: Grace in Jesus makes us one

Text: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:5-6)

Purpose: To thank the Triune God for helping us to remain united by the power of Grace.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Plan a "Festival of Abundance and Thanksgiving," celebrating and thanking God for life, for family, for friends, for salvation and sanctification, for those reached, for communion with one another, etc.
- For this Festival, make a special banner which shows all the reasons for which we thank God, especially for the work of the year, done in unity.
- Saturate your community and church with invitations to the event.
- With the help of the whole church, collect food or make simple dishes to donate to the guests of the Festival as a sign of the undeserved gift of God.
- Conduct an evaluation of the work done throughout the year, celebrate the achievements, and make plans for the future.
- Have a special devotional with all the SDMI workers, giving witness to their struggles, fears, and victories, and showing them your gratitude, and thus maintain the unity of the team.