



Agros Fellowship III Ministry Vision

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” – Matthew 13:44

Jesus teaches us here that the extraordinary kingdom of heaven is hidden in what looks incredibly ordinary: a field, an *agros*. That means his kingdom’s visible presence on earth is not sensational, wise, or powerful to the natural man (1 Cor. 2:12-14). Instead, it’s very ordinary: churches who sell everything else with joy to have God’s Word, prayer, fellowship, and the ordinances (Acts 2:42).

Such ordinary churches may appear small and powerless, but wherever we see true faith corporately devoted to these ordinary means of grace, we see something extraordinary: the indestructible churches of Christ on earth (Matt. 16:18-19). The extraordinary aims of God’s grace are to mature and to multiply such churches across NE Kansas and NW Missouri. To do that, we don’t need bigger budgets, bigger personalities, bigger credentials. Too often, churches have been distracted by these flashy things. For churches and pastors to remain undistracted and ambitious in their devotion to the ordinary means of grace, we need to be full of faith.

God gives us fellowship to fortify our faith. God uses ordinary, face-to-face fellowship between ordinary Christians to fill up what is lacking in our faith (1 Thess. 3:10). Our faith doesn’t need tips from professional experts or the validation of massive crowds. Our faith needs fellowship with other ordinary gospel laborers who deliberately strengthen one another’s devotion to the ordinary means of grace.

This is the vision for the Agros Fellowship. We will be a fellowship of gospel laborers who work for the extraordinary aims of grace by devotion to the ordinary means of grace. We will meet to train and support one another in this devotion. We believe that devotion to these ordinary means will fuel the extraordinary aims of maturing and multiplying churches throughout our region.

The Agros Fellowship will be composed of two groups of men: the Agros Fellows and the Agros Apprentices. The Agros Fellows are men in the fellowship who have already been ordained to the office of pastor/elder by a church. The Agros Apprentices are men in the fellowship who aspire to be pastors or to support them. The fellowship of these two groups will aim to raise up and support pastors who will earnestly devote their churches to the ordinary means of grace, and ambitiously plant such churches in the fallow fields of our region.

We pray the Lord will use the Agros Fellowship to stir up much faithful devotion to his ordinary means of grace and make that multiply into every corner of NE Kansas and NW Missouri.



Agros Fellowship III Fellows Proposal

Definition: The Agros Fellows are a group of men currently ordained as pastors/elders who make formal commitments to the Agros Fellowship

Goals:

- To provide more meaningful support and ministry-collaboration for seriously committed pastors through regular, deliberate fellowship with one another and the Apprentices
- To make additional funds available for pastoral training opportunities within Fellows' churches

Fellowship Commitments:

- Be a member in good standing at a gospel-preaching church
- Affirm the Agros Statement of Theological Commitments
- Attend 12 monthly virtual prayer meetings and 4 Quarterly Gatherings of the Agros Fellowship
- Trade pulpits with another Agros Fellow in the year
- Assist the Agros Director with planning and recruitment for Agros Fellowship events

Curriculum Summary:

August – October (Preaching Focus)

- Prepare Simeon Trust (ST) worksheet on Nahum 1:9-2:2
- Read *The Pastor As Leader* by Currie

November – January (Preaching Focus)

- Prepare ST worksheet on TBD
- Listen to and complete homework for ST E-Course
 - New members: "First Principles"
 - Returning members: "Apocalyptic Literature"
- Attend "Feed My Sheep" conference in Kansas City, MO, November 2

February – April (Prayer Focus)

- Prepare ST worksheet on TBD
- Read *Only a Prayer Meeting* by Spurgeon
- Attend ST Expository Preaching Workshop in Shawnee, KS, April 14-16

May – July (Character Focus)

- Prepare ST worksheet on TBD
- Read *Love the Ones Who Drive You Crazy* by Dunlop

Compensation:

- Curriculum (books and E-course): ~ \$75
- Scholarship for ST Workshop registration: up to \$139
- Scholarship for "Feed My Sheep" registration: up to \$35
- Applications available for pastoral training funds and resources



Agros Fellowship III Quarterly Gathering Overview

Fellowship must have an *aim*. There is a concept of deliberate action in the word fellowship. It should beg the question, “Fellowship *for what?*” For the Agros Fellowship, our aim is to train and support pastors in devotion to the ordinary means of grace. We aim to “devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4) We want the outcomes of our interactions to be more pastors raised up for this faithful ministry and more pastors sustained in it. And so, our Quarterly Gatherings will be shaped by this aim.

Each Quarterly Gathering will be composed of three elements of fellowship.

- 1st hour – Sermon Preview(s)
- 2nd hour – Simeon Trust Sermon Preparation Worksheet Collaboration
- 3rd hour – Curriculum Discussion

1st Hour – Sermon Preview

Selected Agros Fellows/Apprentices will preach a 30-minute sermon to our Fellowship, followed by ~30 minutes of feedback and discussion, structured with a Sermon Evaluation Form (sample on page 4). To prepare, the Agros Director will lead the selected preacher(s) through this 6-week curriculum:

- Week 1 – Proposition and outline: take notes on lectures¹ 2 and 6; meet with director to discuss and apply
- Week 2 – Explanation: take notes on lectures 9 and 14; meet with director to discuss and apply; write manuscript for this portion of your sermon
- Week 3 – Illustration: take notes on lectures 15-17; meet with director to discuss and apply; write manuscript for this portion of your sermon
- Week 4 – Application: take notes on lectures 18 and 19; meet with director to discuss and apply; write manuscript of this portion of your sermon
- Week 5 – Intro and Conclusion: take notes on lectures 8, 12; meet with director to discuss and apply; write manuscript for this portion of your sermon
- Week 6 – Sermon preview: preach sermon to Agros Fellowship; give/receive feedback; make appropriate adjustments to sermon notes

2nd Hour – Simeon Trust Sermon Preparation Worksheet Collaboration

Each member of the Agros Fellowship will prepare one of these worksheets in advance of our gathering for presentation and collaboration in small groups (sample on page 5). Ordinarily, we will all complete a worksheet for the same Bible passage that is being preached in the Sermon Preview to enrich our fellowship. These worksheets will particularly sharpen our exegetical and theological knowledge.

3rd Hour – Curriculum Discussion

We will close by discussing whatever curriculum (book or E-course) we have studied in advance.

¹ All lectures can be accessed free at www.biblicaltraining.org/preaching/bryan-chapell



Agros Fellowship III Quarterly Gatherings Sermon Evaluation Form

Speaker: _____ Evaluator: _____ Passage: _____ Date: _____

Outline Notes

Sermon Introduction:

Sermon Big Idea:

Sermon Body:

Review Comments

How was the preaching spiritually helpful to me? (e.g. encouraging, convicting, instructive, worshipful)

How was the preaching strong? (e.g. points of content or delivery)

How could the preaching improve? (e.g. points of content or delivery)



SIMEON TRUST WORKSHOPS ON BIBLICAL EXPOSITION SMALL GROUP PREPARATION WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Passage: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: At the Agros Fellowship Gathering, we will take turns presenting our worksheets, asking clarifying/sharpening questions, and deepening our understanding of how to interpret and preach this passage. For the assigned passage, please respond to the questions below. Aim to keep this document within 1-3 pages. If you do not understand any of these questions, please visit simeontrust.org/prepare/ to find additional advice.

1. How has the author organized this passage?

- a) **Show the structure in sections with verse references.**
 - a. [Outline here]
- b) **Explain what strategies you used to see this structure.**
 - a. [Strategies here]
- c) **What is the emphasis revealed by the structure?**
 - a. [Emphasis here]

2. How does the context inform the meaning of this passage? *Please list only those that are relevant to the meaning of the passage.* Please consider:

- a) **The *literary context* (passages before and after this passage)**
 - a. [Literary context info here]
- b) **The *historical context* (circumstances of the author's audience)**
 - a. [Historical context info here]
- c) **The *cultural context* (details relevant to life as it was lived in this place at this time)**
 - a. [Cultural context info here]
- d) **The *biblical context* (citations/allusions or historical connections to other books that the author is making)**
 - a. [Biblical context info here]

3. What is the argument being advanced by the author to *his audience* (summarized in one short sentence)?

4. How does this passage connect to the gospel of Jesus Christ? What *part of the gospel* is in view?

5. What argument will you advance to *your audience* (summarized in one short sentence)?

6. What applications will you make? Consider both Christians and non-Christians.

7. What is your sermon title and your preaching outline?

