

Focus on God's Family in 2019

Philippians 1:3-11

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Core values: Family

'Ohana' means 'family' and 'family' means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.

Review: Acts 2:41-47, First [Baptist] Church of Jerusalem was the start of Christian family.

Paul's time with the church of Philippi shows how he developed family values with them.

- ✓ Paul was thankful for his time with them. (verse 3)
- ✓ Paul was still praying joyfully for them even after he's gone. (verse 4)
- ✓ The church family lovingly embraced Paul and the work of the Gospel. (verse 5)
- ✓ Paul had strong feelings of love for his church family (verse 7)
- ✓ Paul sincerely misses his church family (verse 8)
- ✓ Paul's prayer reflects concern for their spiritual welfare. (verses 9-11)

We seek to focus on God's Family in 2019 @GFBC

Our focus on God's family in 2019 is seen through the meaning behind new terminology

- ✓ From shepherding groups to family groups.
 - No one is left behind or forgotten. (Belong, Believe, Become)
 - Family cares for family, not just a shepherd caring for sheep.
- ✓ From cohorts to communities (extended family)

Our focus on God's family in 2019 is governed by our updated mission, vision, values and strategies.

(see backside of outline)

Strategies

- ✓ Provide family values that we will teach and model as a means of changing our church culture.
- ✓ Develop our family groups to encourage all attendees to care for one another, not just elders shepherding their flocks.
- ✓ Develop our community gatherings to enhance friendship and fellowship and mission.
- ✓ Model the points found in the Relational Shepherding Training.

GFBC Revised Mission, vision and values

Formerly our core values were seen through five primary words and their modifier:

1. **God**-centered
2. **Bible**- guided
3. **Community**- oriented
4. **Life-change**- focused
5. **Mission**-driven

Now our core-values have the same basic valuation but now flow from how our relationship to God motivates us to how we focus on people:

1. **Jesus**-centered
2. **Bible**- guided.
3. **Connecting** people to God's family
4. **Growing** people in their faith
5. **Reaching** people with the Good News

Mission:

GFBC is Jesus-centered and Bible-guided to **Connect** God's family, **Grow** our faith, and **Reach** the lost.

Or simply said: **GFBC is Jesus-centered and Bible-guided to Connect, Grow and Reach**

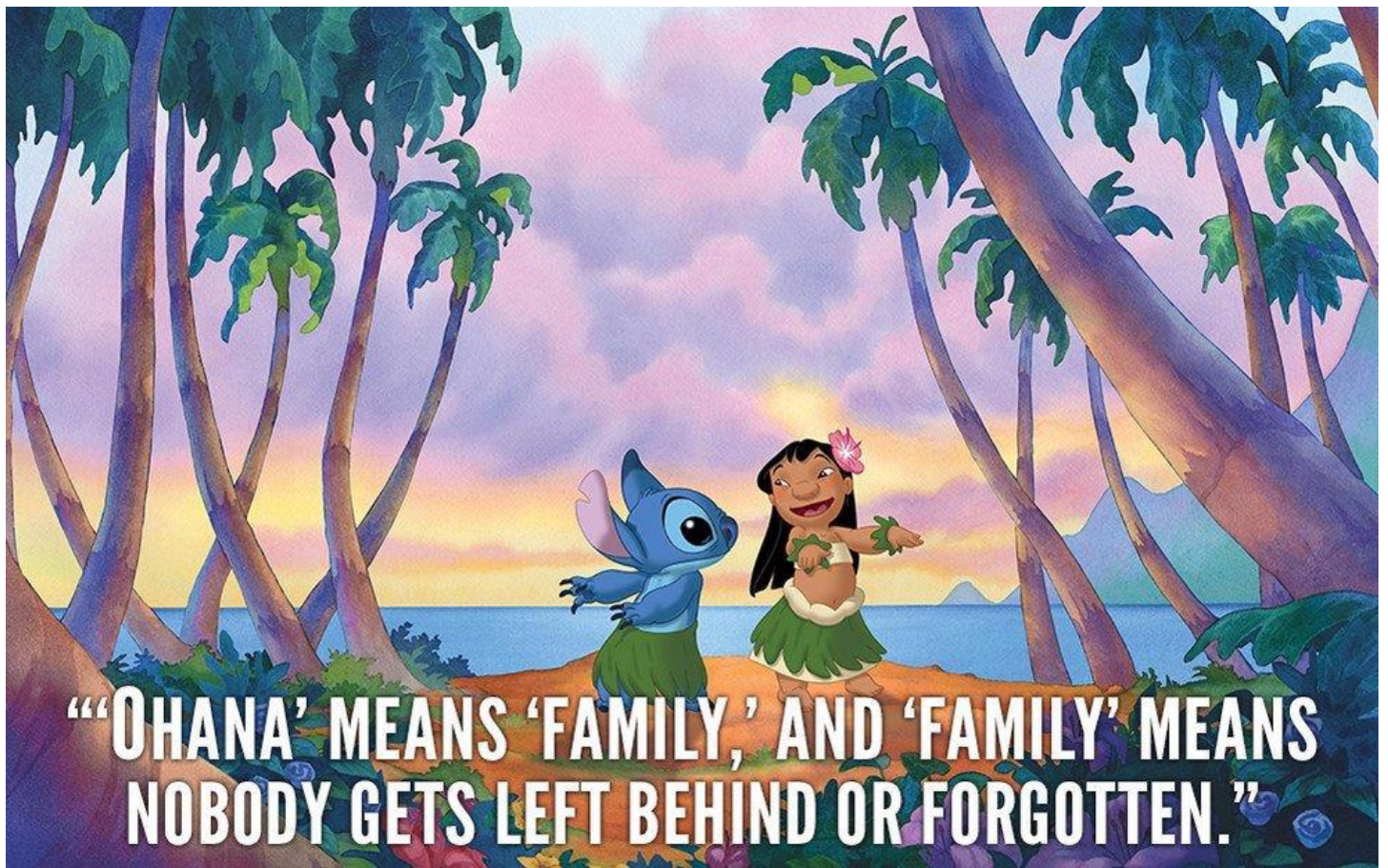
Motto: **Connect, Grow, & Reach.**

Vision:

1. To be a Christ-centered Church in Gladstone, which multiplies and helps other Churches towards our shared goals, in the city and the region. (Connect: Community focus)
2. As a community, we are devoted to building an engaged, passionate, spiritually healthy community of people that makes up our church family. (Grow: Inward focused)
3. To be the church that displays the love of Christ and connects with people of all lifestyles through our creative services, discipleship, and outreach. (Reach: Outward focus)

Values:

1. Be **Jesus-centered**, as our source of salvation, our way to the Father, our empowerment from the Holy Spirit, our means of life, and our focus of worship.
2. Be **Bible-guided**, recognizing that Scripture is God's only written message and truth for us today.
3. Be **connecting** people within God's family, designed by God to be together in a community of faith.
4. Be **growing** people in their faith, called to assist others in their journey of faith and life-change.
5. Be **reaching** people with the Good News, commissioned to go beyond ourselves with the message and love of God to those who need salvation



What is *Ohana*?

In case you aren't a big fan of the Disney movie *Lilo & Stitch*, the ancient Hawaiian term *ohana* means family, but probably not in the way you typically use it. *Ohana* speaks to the concept of a larger family that is not necessarily connected by blood. A person's *ohana* can include their best friends, neighbors, or anyone else who is special in their life.

An *ohana* is special. The people within it are bound together by genuine compassion, culture, support, loyalty, and love for each other. To become a part of someone's *ohana* is a great honor.

In today's world where we can become social media "friends" with everyone we meet, but when genuine and deep friendships are becoming increasingly rare, the beauty and value of the *ohana* becomes even more obvious. Study after study confirms that humans are social creatures that long for companionship and community. Within an *ohana*, you are never isolated or alone.

<https://www.aliireorts.com/blog/understanding-ohana/>