

# WELCOME TRACK

## SESSION 1

### THIS IS R FAMILY

The **CHURCH** is the **FAMILY OF GOD** that exists in a **GLOBAL** and **LOCAL** expression.

#### HOW ARE WE PART OF THIS GLOBAL FAMILY?

**Salvation:** We enter the new family of Jesus when we are born again and become a disciple of Jesus. Have you trusted Jesus?

#### HOW ARE WE PART OF THIS LOCAL FAMILY?

**Baptism:** This is our public announcement that we are now part of the family. Have you been baptized?

**Communion:** This is our public reaffirmation of our relationship to Jesus and His family.

**Discipleship:** We learn to **LIVE** in the new family of Jesus by taking our next step of **OBEDIENCE**.

When you trust Jesus and are saved, you are born again into the universal family of God called the **GLOBAL CHURCH**. Then you are baptized, take communion and are discipled in the local family of God called the **LOCAL CHURCH**.

Revolution Church is a local church that exists as part of the global church. When you are part of Revolution, you are part of **R FAMILY**. Our church is a family and we want to grow together as we learn how to live in the new family of Jesus.

#### WHAT IS R FAMILY HISTORY:

We want you to know the history of **R FAMILY** and some of the ways God has worked in our past, so that you have an appreciation for who we are and how we got here.

**How we started:** We were a church plant from Westridge Church in Dallas, GA and started in 2004. Our name was Ridge Stone Church and we met at the original Teasley Middle School in Canton when we were first planted.

**Name/Location Changes:** After the church continued to grow, we moved to the movie theater in Canton and changed our name to Revolution Church. We spent several years at the movie theater. Early in 2009, we moved from the movie theater to the Cherokee County Conference Center to accommodate our church family better.

**Pastoral Change:** In June of 2009, the founding pastor of Revolution resigned and as you can imagine, our young church experienced great turmoil. We then began the nationwide search to find our new Lead Pastor. In December of 2009, we hired Pastor Jason Gerdes from Texas to lead us. He started in January of 2010.

**Revolution Canton:** After Pastor Jason was hired, the church continued to grow and we quickly ran out of space at the Conference Center. We began doing four gatherings on Sunday to accommodate all of the people. In the fall of 2010, we embarked on our first giving initiative, bought land at 125 Union Hill Trail, and, in January of 2013, moved into our first permanent location.

**Revolution Jasper:** After moving into the first location in Canton, the church grew and reached more people regionally. In 2017, we unveiled a new vision to multiply at every level and launched our second location in Jasper at Pickens County High School. We also bought land in 2017 at 689 North Main Street, built our second permanent location, and moved in March 2020.

**Revolution Online:** In 2018, we made a commitment to broadcast our gatherings online. We made connections with people from around the world and continued to hear of how God was using our online presence to transform lives. In 2020, we moved from simply broadcasting our gatherings, to launching an online campus for people to connect and grow.

## **WHAT IS R FAMILY ALL ABOUT?**

### **MISSION: LOVE JESUS. GROW PEOPLE.**

There are two parts to the mission: Jesus and People. We are built on the person of Jesus and the process of growth.

**Person of Jesus:** The church belongs to Him and He is the one who builds the church. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said all authority belongs to Him and in Matthew 16, He said, "I will build my church." We like to say Jesus is the Senior Pastor of Revolution Church. It is His church and it is His people.

**Process of Growth:** The second part of our mission is GROW PEOPLE. We are all about Jesus! We want to be about what He is about and that is growing people. Therefore, the second part of our mission is built on a process where people GROW and become disciples of Jesus. The process of how people GROW is laid out in the Bible and is not unique to Revolution Church. However, what is unique is the simple way we communicate it. We call it the GROW process and this is how discipleship happens at Revolution Church.

## **CORE VALUES:**

In Matthew 13, we see the parable of the sower. We don't just see four different soils, but four different steps the seed goes through in the process of growth. Those four steps make up our Core Values which is our **GROW PROCESS:**

**Gospel:** The seed of the Word of God is planted in us and we are saved.

**Relationships:** We grow roots to keep us grounded in the gospel. These are relational roots connecting us to the new family of Jesus.

**Obedience:** This is the step in the process, where out of the gospel and the church, fruit is grown in our lives as we learn to obey Jesus' commands.

**Works:** The fruit God grows in us is planted into others through good works. So the Gospel is multiplied and the kingdom of God grows to all nations.

## **VISION: TO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES, CAMPUSES, AND CHURCHES**

We want to multiply disciples, leaders, and artists - who then multiply other disciples, leaders, and artists - so we can multiply more campuses and churches.

## **METAPHOR FOR MISSION AND VISION:**

*<sup>35</sup>He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. <sup>36</sup>And there he lets the hungry dwell, and they establish a city to live in; <sup>37</sup>they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield. <sup>38</sup>By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish.*

### **Psalm 107:35–38 ESV**

These verses are a picture of the mission and vision of our church. God first turns our desert life into a spring. Through His grace, we are born again into the new family of Jesus. Next, a church is established where we sow, plant, and produce fruit. Then by His blessing, we multiply greatly.

## **ACTION STEP:**

Your next step is to watch Session 2: Your Role in the Family.