First Love Priority: The Family of Jesus
Text: Various
October 4, 2025

Big Idea:

Context is key!
Question #1 (Context)
Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?
a) What is the setting and what is happening?
b) Who are the main characters?
c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)
Ask Yourself: What does the text says about God and about me?
a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3
a) What does it mean to be a formal member of a local church?
b) What are some differences between membership in the local church and membership elsewhere?
c) Why can't you separate a first love for Jesus from the priority of committing to His Church?
d) How is formal church membership an expression of the gospel? Use examples from Scripture.

Membership must be our priority because...
Point 1: It _____ the _____ of the Church (Acts 2:42-47)
Question: Membership says, "I love Jesus, I value this church and I commit to it." Will you?

Question #4
a) **Rd Acts 2:42-47:** How did the early church display a first love for Jesus through their membership in the local church?
b) How did these things show the value of Jesus and His church in their lives?
c) What things are you tempted to declare of greater value than Christ's church? Why those? What is one step you can take this week to show a greater value for Christ's church *(ie-Serving, praying, giving, etc.)*?

Membership must be our priority because...
Point 2: It _____ my _____ in the Church (Heb. 3:17, Matt. 18:15-18)
Question: Membership says, "My leaders are accountable for me and I submit to them." Will you trust God's design?

Question #5
a) **Rd Heb. 13:17:** How is local church membership God's means for holding church leaders accountable for their leadership?

b) What does it mean to *"obey your leaders and submit to them"*? Who are you ultimately submitting to when you submit to them?

c) What are some things you could do even this week to encourage them in their work?

d) Spend time in prayer for the leadership of Hope Ottawa (Elders, Staff and Ministry Leaders). Pray for an increasing reverence for the Lord, intimacy with Jesus, passionate love for the flock, protection for them and their families, and courageous faith in leading the church in the season ahead. Also, repent of areas where you have not submitted to them through your words, thoughts and actions as they follow Christ.

Membership must be our priority because...

Point 3: It _____ the _____ through the Church (Acts 6:1-7)

Question: Membership says, "The mission is the priority, so this church is my priority." Is it yours?

Question #6

a) **Rd Acts 6:1-7:** Why is it imperative that church leaders are selected from church members?

b) What happened to the multiplication of the church when the 7 men were chosen to address the issue in the church? How does church membership fuel the multiplication of the church?

Question #7

a) Even as youth right now, who aren't going through the formal membership process, how can you be setting an example of living with a first love for Jesus through a high value of His Church and commitment to it? (Hint: 1 Tim. 4:12)

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **any of the various texts looked at...**

a) <u>ADORATION</u>: Lord Jesus, You are the Head of the Church who _____ .

b) <u>CONFESSION</u>: Lord Jesus, I repent of my lack of love and value for You and Your Church in_____ .

c) <u>THANKSGIVING</u>: Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of Your Church that _____ .

d) <u>SUPPLICATION</u>: Lord Jesus, I ask for: **i)** A Greater Value of Your Church in me **ii)** My joyful accountability in Your church **iii)** Multiplication of the mission through Your church

Memory Verse:
"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."-Acts 2:42