

Connecting People to Jesus

A Revitalization Message

Big Idea: "It's not the things in the Bible I don't understand that scare me — it's the things I do." We gather, we grow, we go. Connecting people to Jesus is not optional — it's the call on every believer's life. Lord, give me your heart for this person.

Main Points

1. The mission of the church can be summarized as: We gather to grow, we grow to go, connecting people to Jesus.
2. Gathering is not limited to Sunday mornings -- it includes life groups, one-on-one relationships, and daily time alone with God in His Word.
3. Growth is an ongoing process. God loves us as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us that way. The goal is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).
4. Going means breaking the huddle -- stepping beyond our comfort zones to invest in the lives of others with humility, intentionality, boldness, and grace.
5. We are not saved by gathering, growing, or going. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). But if we are truly in Christ, a desire to share that grace with others will follow naturally.

☐ 1 Corinthians 3:8-9

☐ Joshua 1:9

☐ Ephesians 2:8-10

Scriptures:

☐ Hebrews 10:24-25

☐ Deuteronomy 31:12-13

☐ Acts 2:42-47

☐ Matthew 18:20

☐ 1 Peter 2:2

☐ Colossians 2:6-7; 3:16

☐ Romans 8:28-29

☐ Matthew 4:19

☐ Matthew 28:19-20

☐ Ephesians 6:12

☐ 2 Timothy 2:2; 1:7

☐ 1 Peter 5:5

Opening Question:

Can you think of a time when someone helped you feel more connected—to a church, a group, or to Jesus? What did they do that made a difference?

Discussion Questions:

Gather

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us not to neglect meeting together, especially as we see the day of Christ's return drawing near. What does regular, intentional gathering look like in your own life beyond Sunday mornings?

Pastor Tim described gathering happening in rows (corporate worship), circles (life groups), and one-on-one relationships. Which of these do you feel most comfortable in? Which do you tend to avoid, and why?

Acts 2:42-47 describes the early church living life deeply together -- sharing meals, possessions, prayer, and teaching on a daily basis. What would it look like in our current cultural context to move closer to that kind of community? What barriers get in the way?

Grow

Pastor Tim said, "On my own, without Jesus, I am a jerk." He went on to say that is true of all of us. How does honestly acknowledging your own need for ongoing transformation change the way you relate to others -- especially those who do not yet know Christ?

Colossians 2:6-7 describes the Christian life as walking in Christ, rooted and built up in Him. What spiritual habits or disciplines are currently helping you grow? Are there any you sense God calling you to develop or strengthen?

Romans 8:29 describes God's ultimate goal for believers -- to be conformed to the image of His Son. In what area of your life do you most clearly see Christ changing you? In what area do you feel the most resistance to that change?

Go

Pastor Tim asked: "When was the last time you poured into someone's life in such a way that you helped them become a disciple of Jesus?" How did that question land with you? What came to mind?

2 Timothy 2:2 describes a four-generation chain of discipleship -- from Paul to Timothy to faithful men to others. Who discipled you, formally or informally? Who are you currently investing in? If the answer is no one, what is one step you could take this week to change that?

The sermon identified four ways we go: In humility, Through intentional relationships, With boldness With grace. Which of these comes most naturally to you? Which feels most challenging? What do you think is behind that challenge?

Practical Applications:

1. Gather: If you are not currently in a life group or meeting regularly one-on-one with another believer, reach out to one person this week and schedule time to connect.
2. Grow: Commit to a specific time each day this week to open your Bible and pray, even if only for ten to fifteen minutes. Come to the next group meeting ready to share what you read or what stood out to you.
3. Go: Write down the name of one person you know who does not have a relationship with Jesus. Pray for them daily this week using the words, "Lord, give me your heart for this person." Look for one natural opportunity to have a meaningful conversation with them.
4. Disciple: Identify someone in your life who is newer in their faith or spiritually curious. Consider reaching out to them about meeting regularly to read Scripture, pray, and talk through what it means to follow Jesus.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the grace You have freely given us -- grace we did not earn and do not deserve. Help us not to hold it to ourselves. Give us hearts that genuinely care about the people around us. Make us faithful to gather with one another, to keep growing in You, and to go with boldness and humility to those who need what we have found in You. Show each of us the next step You are calling us to take. We pray this for Your glory alone. Amen.