



## DAY 2

### READ ACTS 2:42-47

Our first essential this week is **Community matters**. Real community is essential, beautiful, and requires hard work. A flourishing Christian has a vibrant relationship with

God, self, believers, and non-believers. We are to grow together in Gospel fluency, discovering and deepening our understanding of God's message to us through Jesus Christ—the good news that Jesus has defeated sin, death, and evil through His own death and resurrection and is making all things new, even us.

We must understand our identity in God's community:

We are family because God the Father adopts us. Jesus made it very clear we should be known by our love for God and each other.

We are servants because God the Son purchased us. If we don't serve others as Jesus served us, it is because we have forgotten how He has served us, or we don't really know Him in the first place.

We believe Gospel fluency and our identity as family and servants occurs best in discipleship groups, or DNA groups. A DNA group ideally consists of three to four same-gendered people who meet together weekly to discover Jesus in the Scriptures, nurture the truths of the gospel, and act on what the Spirit calls us to do. A DNA group should be a major factor in our growth as disciples of Jesus (people who are learning to apply the gospel to absolutely every part of life.) Community matters!

## DAY 3

### READ JOHN 20:21

As believers, we should be eager to see all people know the love of God. **Evangelism matters**. We ourselves have been adopted into God's family and now we all play a role in others experiencing God's love and forgiveness. Personal relationships connect people to Jesus. Our everyday lives are our mission field.

The word "evangelist" comes from the Greek word for *angel* which means "messenger," specifically, a messenger of the good news. The equivalent from the Latin is *missionary*, which brings us to our third identity-missionary.

We are missionaries because the Spirit has sent us. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, empowered and led by the Spirit, now we are sent as His missionaries by the same power. One of our biggest gaps, our biggest sins as a church, along with lack of prayer, is that we have rejected our identity as evangelists; as missionaries. God intends us to live out His mission in community, not on mission alone. We are to live in Missional Communities.

Missional Communities gather together throughout the week, fulfilling Jesus' command to be disciples who *make* disciples. Every Missional Community is called to identify a group of people whom they believe God is sending them to love, serve, and share Jesus with. God wants to see every aspect of our city blessed by God's people: business, arts, education, government, sports, recreation, and social services. He wants to make sure everyone has a daily encounter with Jesus. If we are not living lives as missionaries in community, assuming our God given identities, or fulfilling Jesus' mission, we are living in disobedience to what He is leading us to do. Evangelism Matters!

## DAY 4

### READ JEREMIAH 29:7

We are called to give voice and resources to those who suffer from injustice. **Justice matters.** We don't want to be a church that just speaks about Jesus, but also demonstrates Him to our city so that people would know Him. God calls us to pursue the universal flourishing of the city that we are in and a major part of this is caring for the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the oppressed.

Are we a church that lifts its hands, sings great songs and that's it? Or are we a church that walks out of these doors and engages in real worship? Real worship is not just attending worship services, it's engaging in the needs of those around us. Pure complete worship is engaging with people who are lost, oppressed, and in need. Wade into their story. Our goal as a church is for everyone to be in Missional Community, serving someone, somewhere in our community. Justice Matters!

Where and how are you serving?

## DAY 5

### READ JOHN 17:20-21

We are better together. **Unity matters.** We can't do it alone. There is one Church, under one Lord, called to one mission together. Jesus prayed for a one-church reality. One of the greatest apologetics of the gospel changing a life is our unity; our devotion to one another. We have to stand against anything that divides His church in our city. We must celebrate any church that preaches Jesus, upholds His word, and fights for unity.

The reason you should love the Church is because Jesus loves the Church. And how do we love the church?

- We love each other by honoring each other (Romans 12:10)
- contributing to meet each other's needs (Romans 12:13)
- showing hospitality to one another (Romans 12:13)
- rejoicing over each other's joys (Romans 12:15)
- weeping over each other's griefs (Romans 12:15)
- pursuing unity with each other in spite of differences (Romans 12:16)
- not excluding members different than you (Romans 12:16)
- submitting to each other (Ephesians 5:21)
- serving each other (Galatians 5:13)
- bearing with each other's weaknesses, failures, and immaturity (Ephesians 4:2)
- covering each other's sins with forgiveness (1 Peter 4:8)
- stirring up each other to press on in the mission of love (Hebrews 10:24)
- and not neglecting to meet regularly together (Hebrews 10:25).

We have to have the mind of Jesus. Unity Matters!

How do you find love and unity in the church?

Do you have someone to remind you of your value and God's vision for you, to discover Jesus with, to walk with you during anxious times? Have you considered creating a DNA group- three people of your same gender, committed to meeting weekly to discover, nurture, and act on your relationship with Jesus, together?