

SOW: Season of Witness - Week 7: Pattern of Community

HANDOUT

We are designed for community...

REMEMBER: People go out for drinks after work not because they're thirsty, but to satisfy the hunger for meaningful community that the Father has placed in every one of us.

The Best Gospel Witness Is a Jesus-Centered Community

Hebrews 10:24-25

- Paul's least effective mission trip:
- Heresy occurs when people are isolated and removed from community
- If your primary mode of disciple-making is disconnected from everyday life, you'll form disciples who are disconnected from everyday life
- Let's form disciples out in the world, in local neighborhoods and contexts
- Two things you can't get from online church are:

PAUSE

When have you best experienced an authentic Christian community?

What made (makes) it especially good?

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Community Is Not Easy

- Some people are really annoying!
- You might be one of those people!!
- Romans 15:5 *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had”*
= it takes endurance to stay in community
- You need empowerment from the Holy Spirit to be the right sort of person in community
- The more vulnerable you are the better = the “beautiful mess effect”

How to Be a Community

- Use Up, In, Out type gatherings
 - ◆ UP: creative worship + fresh bread
 - ◆ IN: eating + one anothering
 - ◆ OUT: demonstrate + declare the Kingdom

Organic vs Organized

- ◆ Organic
- ◆ Organized

NB Think about the people you’re trying to disciple

Welcome into your home

- ◆ Home as a base of missionary ops

Porous edges

- ◆ ‘Front porch’

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Fun + socials

- ◆ Set aside 3 meals/ week

Time

- ◆ Individuals
- ◆ Reading the Bible
- ◆ Groups on a common mission

HOMEWORK

How can you intentionally be part of building a Jesus centered community where people are being discipled (further) into faith?

1. What will be the marks of that group?
2. Who else do you need to ask to join?
3. Who are you specifically investing into?
Let them encounter God's presence there and then!
4. Who will hold you accountable for making this shift?