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RECAP

This week we begin a short series to set us on the right path for 2022, and to reaffirm why we exist as a church! To ask, "What are you FOR?" is to cut to the very core of our purpose and mission as a people of God.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: What is one thing you're looking forward to in 2022?

DISCUSS

KEY PASSAGE: Mark 10:46-52 | Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus, was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."

⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." ⁵² "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 15:19 | It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for those who are turning to God.

1. Pastor Josh encouraged us to "keep the main thing the main thing." In your eyes, what is the "main thing" for Fair Oaks Church? What is the "main thing" in your own life?
2. What are the things (positive or negative) the Christian church is known for today? Have you ever experienced someone who rejected the church or God because of what they perceived the church was "against?"
3. How can we change the narrative of what we're against, and demonstrate what we are FOR?
4. Read Acts 15:1-19. The early church was experiencing one of their early growth pains. What was the issue, and how did God lead them to a solution?
5. Who are some people, groups, communities, businesses, or schools you want to intentionally be FOR this year, and how can we pray for success in that?

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Pastor Josh gave this practical application for how we can begin to be FOR others in our community: own a restaurant, meaning pick a local spot near where you live/work and eat there regularly. This opens the door to creating intentional connections. Make an effort to get to know the staff and customers. Find out what you have in common and build on that. This can lead to conversations with people about how you are FOR them because God is FOR them! Give it a try and let us know how it's going. We can't wait to see how God will work through you to reach others!

