

## Community Part 3

Just Reach One

*Genesis 12:1-3*

*Memory Verses: Genesis 12:2*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

For the past few weeks we've been looking at what it means to be a community church. To care for our own community / family here at the church. We are to depend on Christ together, and disciple one another. In that way we are transformed to be equipped to reach the world with the Gospel.

Today I want us to move from a focus on ourselves to a focus on the community around us. I know David connected those two last week and I want to continue his thoughts here. Today I want us to recognize that we exist for a reason. Today I want us to understand that we have a choice as a church. **We can have a church that simply exists and changes nothing in our community, or we can make a difference for the kingdom of Christ!** It's as simple as that. So without further ado, let us look into our purpose as a church. Let us see how we can reach the world with the Gospel by simply trying to reach one person each! Just reach one!

Look again with me at the passage we looked at a couple of weeks ago. **Genesis 12:1-3**. Again, let me remind you that... Abram was told to go from his country to another land. **After 100 years God told this church to uproot ourselves from Third Avenue, to leave our building, our community, even our name behind, and move to the land that he showed us 25 years ago. We moved with the hope that the church of Stone Creek would be blessed and the name of Stone Creek Church would be made great only in the sense that it would make the name of Christ greater. We re-established ourselves as Stone Creek Church so that we would be a blessing to the community of North Danville / the R&L Smith Area / the Stone Creek Community. And we came here with the hope that God would bless everyone who ever came onto our property, whether through a Sunday morning worship service, an Easter Egg Hunt, a Friends and Family Sunday, or simply to play Soccer. Perhaps through our small church all the families of this area would be blessed. Do you see the similarities? Do you see the mission? The main point I want us to focus on this morning is this... **Stone Creek Exists To Glorify God By Reaching Our Community One Person At A Time!****

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see here is that... **We Reach The**

**Local Community Through Relational Outreach.** Look again at **verse 2**. We are blessed to be a blessing to those around us. We want to be blessed for the glory of God and we want to be a blessing for the glory of God. We have two testimonies as a church. How much has God blessed us and How much have we blessed others. Does the community around us look at us as a Church with God's hand on it? Do they see us growing in our faith and becoming more alive in Christ? Do they see an excitement for what is happening here? Do they see a move of God happening on this mountain? When something is on fire, people come to see it burn. Also, is the community around us being changed by our presence? Are we helping people in need, caring for the hurting, and showing the love of Christ in apparent ways? Most importantly are we reaching people with the Gospel?

All of these blessings contribute to our success as a church, but, far and away, the most important is reaching people with the Gospel. **We exist as a church to bring God glory by drawing people to Christ.** If we exist as a church, to draw people to Christ, what is the best way to do that? I believe it is through what we call, relational outreach! We reach people relationally in order to earn the right to share the Gospel with them! This is done through two avenues. Individually and corporately. Let's first look at the corporate strategy.

The individual route is the primary strategy our church has for reaching the lost, however we supplement that strategy through corporate outreaches; easter egg hunts, trunk or treats, thanksgiving, benevolence, care portal, tutoring, jail ministry, etc...

I think there has been some confusion as to our local outreach strategy of late and I just wanted to clarify some things today. One, I do want us to have the biggest and best events that we can possibly do. It shows that we've been blessed and it shows that we are willing to do whatever it takes to be a blessing!

Two, I do want us to have the most people we can get! Not because I want to be able to brag on how many numbers we got. Not at all! But I want us to be able to reach more people and the more people we have coming the more opportunities we have to reach the lost! I believe **the better our events, the more people will come, and the more opportunities we will have to share the love and Gospel of Christ!** It's as simple as that!

Three, Just because I want to go bigger and better, doesn't mean we will burn ourselves out to get there. Remember I said in the beginning, if we don't take care of us first, we won't be any good to our community! So I want to make this clear. If you feel overwhelmed and can't serve... by all means feel the freedom in Christ to say no, I'm not available! It's as simple as that. We will do what we can with who we have and what we have! When we do these big events we do want every hand on deck, but if your hand needs a break, don't feel guilty. Rather, get re-energized for the next one! Christ

wants you at your best, not burnt out!

Four, The missions team and the leadership of this church is sold out on making our events more impactful for the kingdom. This year we are doing everything we can to make our events more spiritually minded, and Gospel focused. We don't want to be a machine, we want to be a holy spirit filled movement! Only when the Spirit is in it can it truly be a blessing to our community! As a church we hold relational outreach events to draw the unreached to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Stone Creek Exists To Glorify God By Reaching Our Community One Person At A Time.**

The second thing we need to see here is that... **We Reach Our Neighbors Through Bless Every Home**. So, yes we do events, but so much more important than that is that each of us does our own individual parts everyday. **The church exists to grow you as an individual in your walk with God so that you can personally share the Gospel with your neighbors**. This is the primary strategy of our church. We have two mottos for this strategy. Bless Every Home and Each One Reach One. Let's look at them one at a time.

Through Bless Every Home, we are also asking you to cast a wider net by praying for your neighbors. It is a web based program that helps you pray for, care for, and eventually share with your neighbors. All you do is sign up to become a light in your neighborhood by going to [www.blesseveryhome.com](http://www.blesseveryhome.com), then you will receive periodic emails to pray for your neighbors. After praying for them, mark that you've prayed for them. As you pray for them a number of times you can now look for opportunities to care for them and then eventually you may be able to share the Gospel with them as well! If you are a covenant partner with Stone Creek and you are on board with what we are all about, I implore you... adopt this strategy.

Why is it important to sign up? First, because your Elders and Deacons are asking you to be a part of this program. Secondly, because it helps you track how often you pray and care for your neighbors. It keeps you from slacking on this, the most important of purposes. Thirdly, it helps keep you accountable as we can see who is praying and staying at it. Sign up to be a light today and identify your each one reach one if you haven't already! **Stone Creek Exists To Glorify God By Reaching Our Community One Person At A Time**

The next thing we need to see here is that... **We Reach Our Neighbors Through Each One Reach One**. So you are helping with outreach events at the church, you are signed up with Bless Every Home and are praying and caring for your neighbors. And that's great. But now we come to the most important strategy and plan we have here at Stone Creek. If you don't do anything else I implore you as your pastor, commit to this. Each one Reach one! All we are asking you to do as an

individual is to **identify one person you work with or you live next to or you go to school with or that is a part of your family... as the one person you want to reach with the Gospel this year**. This is your one! If you don't get an opportunity to reach anyone else, this is the one you want to reach. First you pray for them everyday. Secondly, you look for opportunities to serve them regularly. Thirdly, you build a relationship with them and earn the right to be heard. Fourth, when you've earned the right to be heard you look for strategic ways to have spiritual conversations that lead to the question; "what is keeping you from making Jesus the Lord of your life?" Fifth, you walk with them in discipleship! Reach one person! That's it! Once they come to Christ, you become their primary discipler! Then, find another one! If you find another one, they find one, then within a year we will double the size of our congregation and there will be fire on the mountain like you've never seen. **Stone Creek Exists To Glorify God By Reaching Our Community One Person At A Time.**

Lastly, **We Reach The Global Community Through Strategic Missions**. Look again at **verse 3**. All the families of the earth will be blessed. Of course it seems ridiculous to think that our little church can bless the world. We may not be able to actually go and bless every single person, but we most definitely can have a global impact through our missionary partners. This is why we partner with people we trust, who feel like Stone Creek people, to take the Gospel to places we can't always go! We have the Sanfords in Papua new Guinea, the Lytles in Norway House Canada, the Dickinsons in Dakar, Senegal, the O'Neils setting up ministry in unreached countries all over the world, and now the Kornoelje's in Zambia! We use our funds to support them in reaching those we can't reach. And we pray for them daily as they work to bring God glory through the whole world! The strategy is simple. **When you can't go, send!** **Stone Creek Exists To Glorify God By Being A Blessing To Our Community.**

## Application

The reason that Stone Creek Exists is to glorify God through reaching the lost by blessing our church community, our local community, and the global community! Depending on Christ we will reach the world with the Gospel to see lives completely transformed! I believe we have done a good job, but I believe there is so much more to do!

## Conclusion

So, will you join us? Will you do everything you can do to reach one person this year? Will you pray for your neighbors through bless every home? Will you participate in our outreach events to reach more of our community? Will you help pray for and fund our missionaries to reach the world we cant?