

## **This is Us: Our Shared Mission**

Pastor Kevin Donoho

January 7, 2024

### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

### **College Church's Mission**

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

Pastor Kevin took some time to break down this mission statement for us. As a group, take some time to dive deeper into each part.

### **Thought #1: Every Generation**

Psalms 79:13

"Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will thank you forever and ever, praising your greatness from generation to generation."

Acts 2:38-29

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Pastor shared some important statistics with us on Sunday:

- The US population has a median age of 39 years old, while most denominations have a median age of congregants between 50 and 60 years old.
- 54% of active adult church members are 60 years old or older.

When you hear these stats, what are the implications that immediately come to mind? How should this information shape the way the Church approaches evangelism?

Obviously, there is the potential for a gap between the Church and the community. How have you seen College Church work to close this gap? Are there additional opportunities you see that for the

church? How can YOU be a part of this specific part of our mission statement?

### **Thought #2: Into a growing relationship**

Luke 15:1-7

"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

Pastor Kevin posed a really important question on Sunday:

What does it look like to go and search for the one?

Sit with this for a moment, remembering the following:

- The one has a name!
- The one needs to feel genuinely loved!
- The one gives us the opportunity to be intentional!

Who is God highlighting as "the one" for you? Perhaps a neighbor, a coworker, or a member of your family. Whoever it may be, share their name with your group. Invite them into accountability and prayer with you that might be intentional and loving as you pursue them.

### **Thought #3: A growing relationship with Jesus**

Matthew 28:16-20

"Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of

