

#FOR

THE SOUTHSIDE

For The Southside: Week One

Southside Church launched in Peachtree City nearly fifteen years ago, in September of 2005, with the goal of leading people on the south side of Atlanta in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. What began as a small group of people driving to Buckhead Church and dreaming of starting a similar community in Peachtree City has become a community of three thriving churches all across the south side of Atlanta. The fact is, these fifteen years of Southside Church have been remarkable. But they don't have to be the *best* years in the life of this church. If we can each avoid Vision Drift and focus on engaging our community the way God has engaged the world, the past 15 years can serve as the foundation for an incredible future.

Start Talking

1. Have you ever looked up and realized you've gotten lost? What was your first clue you'd gotten off the path you originally set out on? How did you find your way back?

Looking Back

1. Last week, Andy talked about how many people can't seem to resist the "evolution of a court," but instead drift into isolation and comfort in their quest for autonomy. How are you fighting this?
2. Who did you invite to challenge your decision-making and sense of autonomy this past week? How did you react when they spoke into your life?
3. What tangible steps did you take this week to resist isolation and live in the "dependent" state of being in community with other people?
4. Over the past week, how did you make yourself vulnerable to the people you trust? How did it go? What did it feel like?
5. What stories did you determine you wanted people to tell about you after you're gone? How does your current trajectory line up with this goal? Did you do anything to adjust your direction?



What About You?

1. Jeff talked about the concept of, "Vision Drift." In your own words, what does this refer to? Where have you seen it happen before?
2. What do you want to be known for? What do you think you are uniquely equipped to bring to your family, community, church, and workplace?
3. What are you *actually* known for? What do you think people tend to see as your defining features, behaviors, and functions?
4. What are your impressions of God's attitude towards the world and the people in it? Where do these ideas come from?
5. Do you think the people you work and live around generally get the impression that you are "in favor of" them? Why or why not?

Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: John 3:16 – 17.

1. Why does Jesus take such care to insert the word, "so," into the now-famous formulation of the gospel that we find in John 3:16? What does this word emphasize? How?
2. What do we learn about the nature of God in these verses? What do we learn about His intentions? How does it square with your general sense of what's going on in the world?
3. Why did so many people find Jesus's claim that God was "in favor of" the world so revolutionary and counter-intuitive?
4. Do you think Jesus's words in these verses are focused more on individual people or the world as a whole? Why do you interpret it the way you do?

Putting It All Together

1. What implications does the message of John 3:16 and 17 have for the way you live within your own community? The function of your local church?
2. What would it look like for you to live as if God is in favor of you, the people in your life, and the people in your community? What are three things you could do this week to live within that reality?
3. How do you think 30 years of concerted, unconditional love can change this community?
4. Where can you personally be a part of that process of enacting the same unconditional love God has showed you in support of the south side?
5. Where can you take active steps to show up in support of the people around you this week, especially if they don't share your beliefs?

