

#FOR

THE SOUTHSIDE

For The Southside: Week Two

Southside Church launched in Peachtree City nearly fifteen years ago, with the goal leading people in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. What began as a small group of people 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. In fact, in those moments when our memories exceed our dreams, the end is often near. But 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. The key to ensuring that Southside Church continues to pour out love on our community depends on our ability to Create Common Ground, Create Conversations, and Create Connections.

Start Talking

1. If you took a trip for a couple of months, what would you *hope* the people around you (in your household, but also in your surrounding community, work, school, etc...) noticed most about your absence? What do you think they would actually notice?
2. What has been your most unexpected friendship so far in life? What is it about the eventual relationship that surprises you in hindsight?

Looking Back

1. 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 did last week to live within that reality?
2. Where have you enacted the same unconditional love God has showed you in support of the people around you this week? When did you miss an opportunity to do so?
3. Where were you able to take active steps to show up in support of other people this week, especially when/if they didn't share your beliefs?



What About You?

1. Think back on your early encounters with “church.” What did you know the church to be for? What did you know the church to be against? Did you get the sense it was for you?
2. In your wildest, most optimistic dreams, what would this church be known for in its community? How would it get this reputation?
3. When have you allowed success to curb potential in your own life? When have you found yourself letting your memories exceed your dreams?
4. How do you think a person can ensure that their dreams exceed their memories? What does it take to avoid becoming hypnotized by the comfort of our past achievements?
5. When in your life have people intentionally created common ground or conversations with you? How did they do it?

Look It Up

Read the Following Passages: Acts 15:19

1. What do you think it looks like to “make it difficult” for those turning to God? Where have you seen this occur?
2. What does it look like to make it easy for those turning to God? How can followers of Jesus “get out of the way” and avoid being one more obstacle to faith?
3. What does this verse have to say about the attitude we should have towards the people around us? The world at large?
4. Do you think it’s possible to have an “open” heart towards God while maintaining a “closed” heart towards those around you? Why or why not?

Putting It All Together

1. Who comes to mind when you think about the people around you who don’t share your beliefs? Without turning this person into a project, how can you create conversations and connections with them this week?
2. What can you do to “make it easy” for those turning to God this week?
3. Think back on your vision of what the church could and should be known for in this community. What can you do this week to help make that into a reality?
4. Who can you start a conversation with this week? How will you pursue common ground with that person?

