

Connecting the Unconnected

Intro -

- Transitions (AARP, swingset, ear hair)
- All 7 essential about relationships - put in order
 1. Abide in Christ
 2. Reach the Lost
 3. **Connect the Unconnected**
 4. Chase the Strays
 5. Shepherd People toward Spiritual Maturity
 6. Identify, Equip and Release Leaders
 7. Function as a Team
- Define Connecting the Unconnected - put in Life Groups - a call to relationship
- 3 kinds of people - don't understand it or hate it, take it or leave it, love it
- The 3 points below will help you no matter what category you fall into
 1. Jesus did it
 2. It's tough
 3. But it bears fruit

1. Jesus did it.

- biblical relationship history
 - Genesis 1:26 Let us make man in our image - Trinity relational always existed
 - Genesis 2:18 It is not good for man to be alone. The first marriage.
 - Abraham - covenant relationship of promise between God and man - I will make you a great nation and have a special relationship with God
 - Moses - creates laws for that nation - love God and Love neighbor
 - Solomon becomes King of that nation and has many relationships - 700 wives and 300 concubines - skip that part, don't do that
 - Prophets always calling people back to love God, love your neighbor

- Jesus - 12 disciples, sends them out, churches begin
- Paul - to other countries to create churches and people meeting in homes
- Revelation - marriage supper of the lamb to celebrate our relationships with Jesus and what's more relational than marriage
- Acts to camp out there because it's the age we are in
- Read ch 2:42-47, 5:42
- **Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**
- They know to do this because Jesus had taught them how to be connected in relationship
- **Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.**
- It's wasn't about just going to the temple, a means to know grow go
- Learning and spiritual maturity is developed in relationships, Jesus did this
- **Funnel: Show attached Funnel picture - multitudes disappeared as the 3.5 years went by and as**

What does science say?

- God designed us to be this way that's why we are born this way
- **Anatomy of the Soul - "Science shows that when a person is honest and relates in conversation with affirming, interested listeners, the person's brain actually goes through a reconfiguration process where it is healed and made stronger. The brain of the person listening is equally affected."**
- Secular research: **Hardwired to Connect -**

- Humans are chemically predisposed to form close relationships.
- Humans are biologically primed to seek moral and spiritual fulfillment.
- As we grow its gonna be harder and harder for you to know many people. Your context will need to be in a small group of people.
- You can't know everyone but everyone can be known. And this is hard.

2. It's tough. - elephant in the room

- After acts - church at rome, corinth, gal, ephesians phil, col - all issues
- You know what's in my life good, bad and issues, messiness and joy
- You know what's in our life group the same
- because being real is messy
- My history - bad environment, bad leader, Bensing (single), Treece, Mine - all different
- Our group 4 calls last year
- Sometimes I don't want to be there
- Difficult for new people especially
- **James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**
- Life groups are a safe place to be not be safe.

3. It bears fruit. - Sometimes i don't want to be there but I go because I'll miss the fruit of what God wants to do in me and i miss the fruit of what he's doing in other's lives.

- **John 15:1,2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful.**
- **V. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

- He's gonna prune you.
- Look at the fruit in **Acts 2:42-47** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

What does connecting the unconnected look like here?

- It's not the size of our church. It's the depth of our community.
- Care Grow Serve Disciple
- Leads to disciple making opportunities
- Jesus changed the world through 12 knuckleheads. We look for people to do the same.
- kyle marlene discipling others leadership
- Branching - the church did not stay in Jerusalem, allow for more growth and new people, create leaders and using gifts

Branching baton - Marshall was up last year

Close - Ephesians 4:15, 16 **Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

End: I'm biased about joining a life group, Why? Jesus had one, it's tough and will help you grow, and I've seen the fruit from it
I wonder what we get to watch God do this year.

Pray

End - Explain how to do Life Group sign ups