

CORE VALUES

CHRIST-CENTERED & RELATIONALLY-CONNECTED



INTRODUCTION

- Ask the group members if they can cite the three core values of ICB. If they can, ask what it means to the members.

SERMON REVIEW

- A core value is a guiding principle or fundamental belief.
- Our first core value is being *Christ-centered*.
- We tend to be put ourselves at the center; stepping aside for Christ is an adjustment.
- That which is at the center receives our best effort, attention, and devotion.
- What does Christ-centered living look like?
- *We're a life-giving community of faith.* Because Christ brought life (John 10:10), we too bring life as his disciples.
- *We always have room for one more.* Christ always had space at the table for one more (John 6:37). That's why we make a call to salvation every single week! Do you create that space in your own life?
- *We keep Christ the focus of all we do.* He is not just a factor in your decision-making process, he must be the source of your every action.
- Our second core value is being *relationally-connected*.
- *We're a vibrant and diverse community.* We surrender our individual cultures and preferences for the culture of Christ.
- *We believe each person has something to offer the Kingdom of God.* Not just within the weekly gathering or during our events, but out and about as we live our lives! We are many different parts that make up one body (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- *We prioritize fellowship and unity,* because it's good and pleasant (Psalm 133:1). Unity does not always mean total agreement; it's something we must fight for together. Only by our unity will the world know that we're God's people.
- *We are a family.* Have you ever met a perfect family? Of course not. Still, we care for each and pray for each other!

DISCUSSION

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2. How do these verses address both Christ-centered and relationally-connected living?
- If we're supposed to love others as Jesus has loved and given himself for us, what should your life look like?
- How can we "walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us"? Read Galatians 2:20 to inform your answers.

- Why is it important to make Christ the focus of *all* that we do? Why isn't it enough to make him one of several priorities?
- How is it possible to be completely focused on Christ, and yet concerned for others at the same time?
- Who or what binds us together as brothers and sisters? Is it our own will and kindness, or something more? John 1:12-13 may help you formulate a response.
- What faith practices or preferences have you inherited from your nation and its culture? Pastor John listed music as one example. Come up with a few more!
- How can you make sure the things mentioned above do not take precedence over the culture of Christ?
- What can you do to facilitate fellowship and unity within the family of God?

CHALLENGE

- Pray through our core values with the 2018 Prayer & Fasting Journal, now available on the ICB App in English and Spanish.

CLOSING PRAYER