

CORE VALUES

OUTWARD-FOCUSED



INTRODUCTION

- Ask everyone to share testimonies from the last two weeks of prayer and fasting. How was it? How did God speak to you or work within you during it?

SERMON REVIEW

- What's a core value? A guiding principle or fundamental belief. As a church, we value being Christ-centered, relationally-connected, and outward-focused.
- What do we mean by *outward-focused* living?
- To focus is to pay particular attention to something, to see it clearly.
- We're all focused on something. It's natural to focus on "my life," "my career," "my house," and so on; however, we're called to the supernatural!
- Outward-focused life can only be sustained by a love for God. Out of a sincere and growing love for God flows a sincere and growing love for others.
- *We are in this city for this city.* No one is here by accident (Proverbs 19:21, Proverbs 16:9). So while you're here, be rooted and bear fruit! When those around you ask, be ready to give an answer for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).
- *We care for the physical and spiritual needs of the community.* ICB Cares and Grace to Go provide for physical needs (Acts 4:32-34a). Basic, evangelism, disciple-making, and outreaches are intended to address the spiritual.
- *We make it a lifestyle!* Matthew 28:19-20 is a command to make disciples "as you are going."
- *We must stay on mission.* This church was founded by mission & for mission. We give to and support missions here in Barcelona and around the world! But beyond that, we're to be missional in all that we do - seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10).
- The only thing of any real consequence is people (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).

DISCUSSION

- By what core values do you live your own life? How did you determine those values?
- What can you do to make sure that your focus is outward, rather than inward?
- Why does our love for others depend on our love for God?
- Turn to Acts 4:32-35 and read it aloud. What do your belongings and your behavior reveal about your focus?
- Is it possible to love others without loving God? How does that type of love differ from the godly love of a Christ-follower?

- What does being “in this city for this city” mean to you?
- Have you ever considered the reality that God has put you in Barcelona for a reason? How might that truth change the way you live? Look to Colossians 3:17 and Matthew 28:19-20 for some guidance.
- Read 1 Peter 3:15-16 together. What should you do to make sure you’re ready to explain your faith when someone asks about your lifestyle?
- Who will be your pride and joy when you stand before the Lord? Who are you going to bring with you to eternity?

CHALLENGE

- Memorize the ICB mission statement: “To be a vibrant and multiplying community, bringing people from all nations into a growing and transformative relationship with Jesus, discipling and equipping them to impact Barcelona and the rest of the world for Christ!”

CLOSING PRAYER