

What Lies Ahead

Part 3: Life on Purpose

John 10:1-11

INTRO

We see Following Jesus as golf/Individualistic... it's much more like basketball, football, soccer.

Following Jesus is a team sport.

BUT...

WE: When we hear "church" everyone brings their own ideas of what that team "should" look like and do.

- Sunday event... 3-6 songs, announcements, sermon, closing song, coffee and donuts.
- Stained glass, kneeling, etc.
- Home church focused on service projects
- Simply Teach the bible... be a dispenser of religious belief

We all have our own expectations and interpretations of what the "Church" should be.

What happens when you bring all these expectations and interpretations of "church" into one team/organization?

- Chaos/conflict
- Examples- Arguments over carpet, disagreements over what leaders should or should not do, constantly changing directions to try and keep people happy or to fulfill differing visions, ideas and preferences
- Butt heads out of constant frustration

Like construction crew not agreeing on what building they are trying to build. An all-inclusive hotel, no an art museum, no a hospital...

As we (CCC) look at what lies ahead we need to make sure we are all very clear on what we are doing...

100 ways to bre the church... last few episodes why we feel God has led us to this way... not better just best version of us.

Be as clear as possible about what you are invited to be a part of. What Crosscreek's mission is. Why we exist.

If we agree on our purpose we can work together ON purpose.

Last two episodes- WHY This Episode- WHAT Next Episode- HOW.

How do YOU fit into this? Kind of like basic training for Crosscreek.

GOD: Use a conversation where Jesus explained why he came to earth and what it looks like to follow him... to help frame what we are doing and how we all have a role to play... **John 10:1-11**

Our Mission: Inviting our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

We have the privilege of **inviting** people to this Rich, satisfying, full, abundant life. Who are we inviting?

Our Neighbors Who are our neighbors? (Good samaritan) All the Sheeps!

Who has God put in your life?

- See we all already have a "neighborhood"
- Friends, family, co-workers, etc.

God has purposely placed every Jesus Follower in a "neighborhood."

A lot of times...You already know them, you love them, you're even annoyed by them

But it also means purposely getting to know people ...

Using what you do now Sports, hobbies, work, school, as opportunities to see which people God has put in your "neighborhood."

To convert them, right? Not in the way you're thinking... To show and tell them God loves them

Not to find projects... but to find people... people that God loves and people that need to know God loves them.

What are we Inviting our neighbors to do? 3 Things: Discover, Enjoy, Share

Discover... the life

Inviting people to discover the life Jesus offers... as we ourselves continue to discover it ourselves

We are discovering Him... learning to "recognize his voice."

Three times in this passage Jesus describes His followers as those who hear His voice and follow Him.

How simple is that? And yet, this is the "abundant life" Jesus offers. It is eternal life and life now to the full!
In this life, we find "green pasture" (all that sustains a healthy and fulfilled life)

We find intimate and personal relationship with the One who "calls us by name."

We find personal guidance for life as He "leads us out" and we "follow Him."

We find protection under the guidance of the One who Created us, loves us and even died, and rose again for us.

We discover more and more of who he is and what he is like.

How do you discover something? Explore, ask questions, talk to someone who's been there?

Discovery requires the freedom to explore.

Free and encouraged to explore/ask questions/doubt... No question off limits

Never fully arrive... A Pool we can dive into and keep finding new treasures

Not inviting to our church service... "But come be with me and explore with me..."

The life we discover is not a burdensome religion or empty tradition its true full life... its something we can...

Enjoy... the life

The more you discover the more you enjoy... by doing and becoming.

This life isn't just something you read about, study about, sing about. Not just religious Sunday service.

It's something we DO... BECOME... it's a life we GET to live out.

As you learn his voice and come and follow him... as you learn what faith expressing itself through love looks like... you can't help but find a life you enjoy.

The life Jesus offers is a life of freedom... and purpose and peace. "Free to come and go and find good pasture."

The more you live the life Jesus offers the more you enjoy the life Jesus offers.

It's not an easier life (**often harder**) but it's a life that is more real / fulfilling / confident / peaceful / joyful.

So we invite our neighbors to experience this life... live it out... enjoy it.

And when you truly enjoy something you share it right?

Share... the life

We invite others to become inviters with us. We share our life so others can share their life with more others

Great Commission... making new disciples by baptizing and teaching.

Not as complicated as it might have been presented to you.

All 3 (D<E<S) can and do happen at the same time.

As you discover and enjoy more you are also finding more to share... See... **If you've experienced it... You can share it.**

Examples- Love sports? Music? Art? Knitting? Pokemon? Hard to share what you love about it? Some great experience in your life?

Find a good restaurant "Come and see"

Party invitation: Not forced, coerced, manipulated, not a judgement if declined.

Absolutely there are things we can learn that help explain... Important to do... 5 fingers... but the key is that you are sharing what you have experienced, and that's easy to do- it's what YOU have lived. It's your story! Hard to mess up your own story.

So we invite our neighbors to discover, enjoy, and share the life *Jesus* offers...

It's Jesus' offer... we just get to hand out the invitations.

Invitation is not to a religion, Set of beliefs, Rituals, Event, Club

- Invitation to new life... Every moment / Who you are / Wherever you go
- Experiencing forgiveness, love, acceptance, peace with God , self, others, now and forever...
- A full, abundant, rich, satisfying life of being known and knowing the Shepherd

Offered to everyone. No matter who, what, where, when

How do we "invite?"

Could involve inviting to a CCC event... but that's not what we are really talking about...

The invitation is as simple as "Come and see" (Jesus to Andrew, Andrew to Peter, Phillip to Nathanael).

This wasn't an invitation to a church service or even a gathering. It was more like, "Come hang out with me/us."

Could be a backyard BBQ, play day at the park, a hike in the woods, trip to the beach, clean up day at a local park or fix it project for another neighbor in need.

It's nothing formal, it's basically "Come with me, join me as I follow Jesus...Come and see."

Chris w/ pool noodles... come do this with me... experience this with me... something that is FOR them

The life we are inviting people to discover enjoy and share is at first demonstrated more than explained, then explained as/if their interest has grown.

BUT we don't have to do this alone... in fact we aren't meant to...

Together

This is perhaps most important and different part.

Since the “church” ekklesia isn’t a place but a people we are in this together... mission can’t be done alone.

- Not just staff
- Not just special people
- A community with a shared purpose
- Pastorhood of all believers
 - All have the authority and empowering to pastor each other
 - Shepherd, pray for, teach, walk with, etc.

A community focusing their lives on the same mission... inviting our neighbors to discover enjoy and share WITH us... (this is an ongoing process for all of us)

YOU:

Two Questions: Have you discovered a life worth inviting someone to?

- Often don’t invite b/c we aren’t sure what we’ve experienced/aren’t secure in relationship with Jesus.
- Evaluate... based on last two episodes. Following Shepherd? Or participating in Temple Model religion?

Who is in your “neighborhood?”

- Start by praying “God, show me who You want to discover/enjoy/share Jesus’ life today”. Make a list and pray for them.

WE: Come with us. Join us. The ekklesia needs you. Let’s walk into this future together.

We experience true life when we truly experience life together.

You are invited to be a part of something bigger... something that will show you who you were always created to be...

You are invited to discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers... together.

Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen God working in your life and “neighborhood” this past week?
2. How do you understand the “WHAT” of our mission? What are you still wondering?
3. Read John 10:1-11. What are your initial thoughts/questions about the life Jesus offers? If you’ve experienced this life, what are some examples you would use to describe it from your own experience?
4. Who is in your “neighborhood” that you can discover/enjoy/share Jesus’ life with? How can your group pray for you in that this week?