

Welcome!

- ✓ ***Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.***
- ✓ ***Say hello to someone you don't know.***
- ✓ ***We'll gather at 10:20am.***

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Lamentations 3:22-24

*The unfailing love of the Lord never ends!
By His mercies we have been kept from complete
destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies
begin afresh each day. I say to myself, "The Lord is
my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!"*

GOODNEWS

101

Overview

1. Why are we here? (Purpose / Vision)
2. What are we all about? (Mission)
3. What do we believe? (Beliefs)
4. What do we do? (Behaviors)
5. What is the Good News? (Motivation)

Vision & Verse

Vision – to experience and express LOVE from God to others

- **Verse** – *“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”*
– Galatians 5:6b

Mission

Mission – to connect with people and build relationships through community workshops, neighborhood-focused ministry, serving local needs, mentoring, and worship.

The Good News

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destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies
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my inheritance; therefore I will hope in Him!”*
– Lamentations 3:22-24

Specifically...

For he (God) has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:13-14

GNC Beliefs

1. I'm really broken and I need help.
2. Jesus is perfect and He is my help.
3. Jesus is the only way to healing in my relationship with God.
4. The Holy Spirit is my power to live as a follower of Jesus.
5. God calls me to submit to His authority and serve His Church

Teams (Community, Care, Prayer)

When you become a part of the body of Christ, you also become a part of the family of God.

- o Set Up
- o Welcome
- o Children
- o Preaching
- o Worship
- o Food

Crockpots & Casseroles



This Week... GNC Behaviors

1. Serving others
2. Reconciling relationships
3. Giving generously

Serving Others

Serving (mercy) is a natural response to those who have experienced mercy.

Mercy (def):

- Compassionate treatment of those in distress
- Compassion shown to the undeserving

Mercy is a Response

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; **once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.** - 1 Peter 2:9-10

God's Kindness

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God
forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32

God's Kindness

“But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.”

- Luke 6:32-36

Dispensers of Grace

When we serve, we become dispensers of grace who point people to Jesus.

Serving Relieves Suffering

One of God's primary purposes in serving is to relieve the suffering of others.

God's Heart of Mercy

“If there is a poor man among you, within any of the gates in your land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.” – Deut. 15:7-8

Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. - Psalm 41:1

God's Mercy Towards Me

For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. - Psalm 109:22

The Lord protects the simple hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. - Psalm 116:6

What does suffering look like?

1. Pajamas
2. Food
3. Visitation
4. Caregiver Support
5. Transportation
6. Connection
7. Encouragement
8. Sponsorship
9. Noticing
10. Prayer

Your Circle

Who is suffering in your circle of relationships?

Obstacles

1. Time
2. Fear
3. Interest

Time

Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of time.

Fear

Serving gives us the opportunity to exercise faith in the face of our fears.

Interest

Serving gives the opportunity to “*put the interests of others ahead of our own interests*” (Philippians 2:4), and more deeply experience the love of Jesus as we provide relief to those who are suffering.

Growth

- **LOVE** – When we sacrifice of ourselves and serve the needs of others, we experience Jesus and we grow in our experience of love from Him and for Him.
- **FAITH** - We grow in our faith, by the power of God's Spirit through prayer, His Word, and sacrificially serving the needs of others.

Closing Thoughts

1. Serving involves connecting with other people and discovering areas of need
2. Connection is the first step to serving.
3. When suffering is relieved, Jesus is made known, and joy is made full.

The Blessing

1 Peter 2:9-10

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” In His mercy, go now to serve in His life, in His love, and in His joy.