

Church: The Friends and Family Plan

Pastor Paul Springer | *Northwest 2020* series: Week 5 of 6 | Colossians 3:11-17
September 30, 2018 | LIFE Groups Fall Cycle: Week 3 of 9

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

When you go to a fair or carnival, what is the first thing you do? What grabs your attention and draws you in for a closer look?

Nice to Meet You!

If anyone is new to the group, please introduce yourself and share what your favorite song is and why.

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

What prayers has the Lord answered for you lately that inspire you to share Christ?

Do you have any particular prayer requests your LIFE Group can pray for?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Pray that the generations to come will know — personally — the love of Christ and the joy that comes from knowing him! We are Christ's vessels in sharing this love. Pray that the Lord would show you what role he would like you to take in equipping the next generation and how to serve in that capacity.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Being transformed through Christ is the *only* way to foster great relationships.

Read Colossians 3:11-17

Q1. In verse 11, the Apostle Paul describes ways believers are different: culturally, physically, nationally. But he also shares that believers' differences become insignificant when they are unified in Christ. Does that inspire you to reach out to unbelievers who are considered "different"? Explain.

Q2. Does your love for the Lord inspire you to reach out to your unbelieving neighbors, coworkers, family and friends, or strangers in general? Why or why not?

Q3. How are you being intentional in establishing new relationships within the church and breaking down barriers between yourself and fellow attendees and visitors?

Q4. What do you struggle with more when it comes to developing relationships and discussing God with unbelievers: avoiding them because you don't agree with their lifestyle, or conforming to how they live so you can "fit in"?

Q5. How can an unforgiving heart toward others (especially within the church) stunt the growth of and create barriers in relationships and ministry?

Q6. Would you be willing to reach out to someone you don't know well and be intentional in getting to know them more personally? What about spending time with them outside of church?

Impact Questions

Q1. There are many spiritual gifts the Lord develops in us when we become intimately connected with our Lord and Savior. What spiritual gifts do you think are most beneficial for fostering relationships? Are there any gifts you sense the Lord has been preparing in you? Please share with your LIFE Group.

*Spiritual gifts: exhortation, teaching, leadership, discernment, giving, knowledge, apostleship, faith, evangelism, shepherding, prophecy, mercy, hospitality, wisdom, service, encouragement, and administration (among others not listed).
Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 4:9-11*

Q2. Why is fostering relationships in Jesus Christ one of the main focal points for the Mission and Vision at Northwest?

Q3. Was there anything in this particular sermon that stood out to you? What was it, and why do you think it made such an impression on you?

Q4. Our Vision Statement actions are the *wings* that carry us toward our Mission goals. Of the three Vision actions — developing leaders, equipping families, and fostering relationships — which has the Lord put on your heart? What past experiences has the Lord brought you through that have prepared you for this?

Mission Statement: *“The mission of Northwest is to help more and more people become passionate worshippers and gifted servants of Jesus Christ.”* **Vision Statement:** *“Northwest strives to develop leaders, equip families, and foster relationships that thrive in Jesus Christ.”*

What now? (15 minutes)

Be intentional in seeking the Lord in all your relationships; whether it's opening yourself up to new people, growing in deeper relationships, or focusing on healing and mending barriers, Christ is at the center of it all. It is through him that the gospel is shared and that we live our faith in action and love.

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as our body of believers seeks the Lord in our new Vision and church Mission. Please pray that he would go before us to not only break down barriers internally, but externally as well. Also, please pray about your role and the spiritual gifts the Lord has developed in you — that your gifts would be used greatly for his glory!

Sermon Notes: