

Day 12 - Intentional Relationships

God, in His goodness, has uniquely wired all of us for relationships. In a world where we are constantly being pushed toward conflict with one another, we're called to live counter culturally by demonstrating our love for God and one another. So, before we interact with our neighbors, it's helpful to check our hearts.

Often, we operate from a defensive spirit. This can lead to a critical and complaining spirit, which can result in putting up relational walls. As Christians, we can be people of transformative love. In fact, everything we do is meant to be done in love, and everything we do in love serves and glorifies God.

This is why it's important for believers to gather with the local church. When we do, it becomes an opportunity to grow, learn, and encourage those around us. We become people less focused on ourselves and more focused on others, actively looking for more ways to serve, inspire, and support one another, displaying the love of Christ.

How are you an example of Christ's love to those around me in my everyday life?

Our focus scripture for today is Hebrews 10:24–25

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

When we intentionally live out our faith, our love for others will add value to those around us. We begin to carefully consider the people God has put in our everyday lives. We become more motivated than ever to bring out the best in the people around us, honoring God with our good works. And our church becomes a place where we find encouragement and where we cheer each other on to good works.

Pause to ask God to give you opportunities throughout your day to encourage people around you. Loving one another in practical, simple ways that fit the moment.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” spend a moment listening to Jesus, prayerfully considering who you can send an encouraging text message. As we do simple acts of love, our view of others increases as our focus on self-decreases in the light of Jesus' love.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in:

John 13:34–35 ³⁴ I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.