

ENGAGE SERIES

DATE: SUNDAY, 24TH OF JANUARY 2021 | ENGAGE: PART 1

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

And we all, who ... contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

JOHN 14:14-17

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that **you should do as I have done for you** ... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

PROVERBS 19:17

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward them for what they have done."

NOTE TO LEADERS:

1. It's time to gather the troops and start meeting again as a group (if you're not already doing so). Decide on a day and time for your weekly meetings and whether you'll do them in-person or online.
2. Please diarise our first prayer and leader's meeting of 2021 happening at 6:00pm and 6:30pm respectively on Tuesday, the 9th of February.

START TALKING

1. What key take away from Sunday's message can apply to your life?
2. How do you adapt to new technology? Based on Everett Rogers technology adoption curve (see below), where would you place yourself?

START THINKING

1. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Spiritual transformation comes about through our connection with God and our connection with His local church. In what ways do you connect best with God/His church? In what areas do you struggle to connect with God/His church? What is one step you can take this week to allow God to start changing that?
2. Read John 14:14-17. Following Jesus' example of serving others, what are some practical ways we can serve others outside of the church building?

START SHARING

1. Refer to the "technology adoption curve" that Steve shared on Sunday. If that graph represented your willingness to allow Jesus to bring change in the most sensitive areas of your life, e.g. relationships, career, finances etc. Where would you be on the curve? Share about a time you allowed God access to the deepest parts of your heart to change you?
2. Read Proverbs 19:17. What stands out to you about this verse? Outside of tithing, how do you practice "giving to the poor"? How have you been blessed through giving to the poor?

START PRAYING

1. Pray for our Gifted series starting on the 14th of February. That through this series, God will help us unleash the supernatural superpowers He has given each of us.
2. Spend some time in quiet prayer this week, seeking God's wisdom in how you can give to the Above & Beyond building project.

START DOING

Two things to consider this week:

1. Who can you invite to join us for the 6-week Gifted series? We have a unique opportunity to invite people anywhere in the world since the series will be run online.
2. Is God nudging you to run a group for the 6-week period of the gifted series?

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we began our Engage series. Steve spoke about two vision-related items (this should have been our Vision weekend but we've postponed that until we can meet again on site), and two of our values.

At CityHill, we believe we grow best by following these five biblical values:

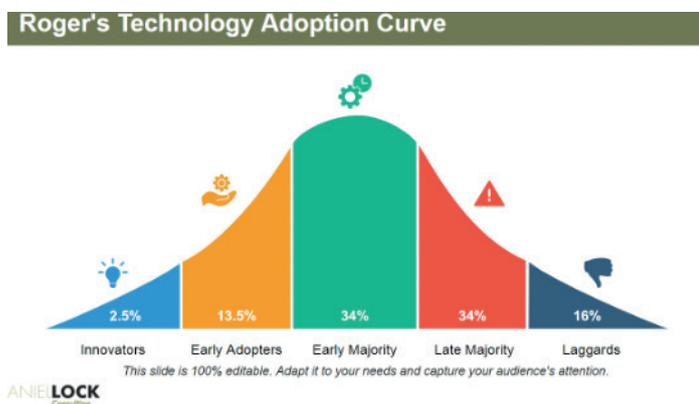
- Growing People Change
- Saved People Serve People
- Found People Find People
- Life is Best Done Together
- You Can't Outgive God

1. Growing People Change

And we all, who ... contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18

This spiritual transformation comes about through our connection with God and our connection with His local church. We have used the word "engage" to describe that connection.

In 1971, Everett Rogers published the Technology Adoption Bell Curve. He theorised that not everyone would immediately adopt a disruptive idea despite obvious benefits.



If we apply this "secular" theory to our relationship with Jesus and the changes He wants to do in us, many of us fall into the "late majority" or "laggards" category (people who don't do change well). In some things we're innovators, e.g. when God brings about blessing and favour, we're quick to accept that change, but when he touches on sensitive areas like relationships, finances, forgiveness etc. we're very sensitive and usually resistant to change.

How are we allowing God to change our lives? How are we allowing Him access to the deepest parts of our hearts to change us? If we don't allow Him to change us, we don't grow spiritually.

2. Saved People Serve People

In John 14, we read the astonishing story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet. The washing of feet was considered one of the lowliest of jobs - possibly equivalent to putting out the garbage or cleaning toilets. And yet here is Jesus - their Rabbi (teacher) washing their feet. This was unheard of. Jesus said to His disciples: *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an exam-*

ple that you should do as I have done for you ... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 14:14-17

In other words, as we are changing and becoming more like Jesus, there should be something in our hearts that changes and want to serve others. This is so counter-cultural to the secular world.

Traditionally, during our Engage series, we invite people to sign up and serve in the church on a Sunday. We're not yet meeting in person yet on Sundays, but all of us can serve others wherever we are. As followers of Christ, we should be serving anyone we come into contact with - neighbours, colleagues, even strangers. We should be looking for ways to extend love, kindness, care and concern to others.

How are we serving others?

LOOKING FORWARD

1. Above & Beyond Building project

In January 2020, we launched our vision for this building project: "We are giving above what we normally give to go beyond where we normally go." The main trigger for this entire building project is the work being done by Nation Changers and CityHope Disaster Relief. Their work is impacting the local community, our nation, and the nations of the world.

Your generous contributions and funding from the church have raised R8 350 000 of the R10 000 000 target, leaving a balance of R1 650 000 to be funded. Next week we will have a moment where you can give towards this project. It's not just about funding a physical building but giving to a project where the work will ultimately impact the poor. Proverbs 19:17 says: *"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done."* When we give of our finances to a project like this, it's like giving to God. Pray about what God wants you to give.

2. Gifted church-wide series

The Gifted series starts on the 14th of February 2021 and will run for six weeks. As with the previous series, it will follow the format of a Sunday preach and a midweek video centred around group discussion. We will be live-streaming the mid-week videos on a Wednesday and Thursday evening (and the videos will also be available for groups to download). The series is supported by a workbook which includes a devotional study.

How can you get involved?

- Join a group
- Start a group
- Join us in prayer and a day of fasting on the 9th of February

As we go into the week ahead, let's ask God to keep transforming us and give us opportunities to serve others. What an incredible privilege it is that we get to live this life that God has given us for Him!