

ENGAGE SERIES

DATE: SUNDAY, 31ST OF JANUARY 2021 | ENGAGE: PART 2

LUKE 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

NOTE TO LEADERS:

1. Join us for a drive through communion this Sunday, the 7th of February from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This is also an opportunity to pick up your workbooks for the Gifted series.
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 is one thing from this week's message that stood out for you?
2. Which person or people invited you to join this group or were involved in you coming to faith? What happened?

START THINKING

1. Read Luke 19:10. Can you relate to our value "found people find people"? Can you think of a time when you invited someone to a church event or a life group meeting? Who are you thinking of inviting to our GIFTED series?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12. Paul describes us as part of a living organism. Why do you think Paul uses the analogy of a body to describe the church? What stands out most to you about this picture?

START SHARING

1. How are you doing on the value of "life is best done together"? How well have you done during the past nine months in staying connected to your church community? What could you do to stay more connected in the months ahead?
2. Zaccheus's life was changed when Jesus reached out and "found" him. What kind of responses have you had from reaching out to others and inviting them to church or sharing about Jesus with them? What can we learn from your experiences?

START PRAYING

You're the best person to reach out and find someone! Spend some time praying specifically for the hearts of people you want to invite to join us for the Gifted series.

START DOING

Found people find people. God cares about the lost and wants us to join Him in the search. Each one of us can reach someone. Be intentional this week to reach out to someone who is "lost" or far from God.

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

We're in the middle of a 3-week series called Engage. In this series, we're exploring the values that hold us together as a church:

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

These values are a good tool to use to measure ourselves - if we score ourselves out of 10 on each value, it's probably a good reflection of our spiritual growth.

Last week we explored the values of "growing people change" and "saved people serve people". This week we look at "found people find people" and "life is best done together".

1. Found People Find People

Let's think about the incredible story of Jesus Christ - coming to earth as a baby, growing up, and beginning His earthly ministry. Over a period of three years, He reaches out and finds people. He calls people and inspires people. People begin to follow Him, and their lives are transformed as a result.

He called many different kinds of people, and we read about one of them in Luke, chapter 19. He stops at the base of a sycamore-fig tree, and perched in the branches is a tax collector, Zaccheus, who would have been hated by his fellow Jews.

Zaccheus (who was very short) climbs the sycamore-fig tree so that he can see Jesus as He passes by. But Jesus wasn't just there to be seen - He was there to find people. And He sees Zaccheus and calls out to him to come down from the tree and invites Himself as a guest to Zaccheus's house. People begin to mutter, asking why this holy man (Jesus) is going to eat dinner with a sinner (Zaccheus)? ... and this is Jesus' response: *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* Luke 19:10. Jesus came to find people and rescue them - that was His mission!

Jesus cared enough to leave the glories of heaven and come to earth to 'find' people - fishermen, tax collectors, prostitutes, Zealots, many ordinary men and women... and their lives are changed. And then before Jesus leaves and ascends to heaven, He gives the great commission for us to go out into all the world and find people (Matthew 28:19).

Imagine, that from that day, followers of Jesus Christ (found people) have gone out to find people... for 2,000 years, found people finding people. Every one of us, without Christ, is lost, and it took someone else to reach out and 'find' us. Will that chain stop with you? Are you so passionate about Jesus that you want to tell others about Him? Do you care enough about others to reach out and 'find' them?

One of the ways we can reach out is through our upcoming Gifted church-wide series. In this series, we'll be exploring the supernatural superpowers that God has gifted each one of us with (Romans 12:6-8).

So how can you get involved with the Gifted series?

- Invite a friend
- Start a group (online or in-person)

- Join us in prayer and fasting on the 9th of February

2. Life is Best Done Together

In the Bible, there are a number of different pictures used as an analogy for the church:

- Body (1 Corinthians 12)
- Building (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2)
- Army (Ephesians 6)

In all three of these pictures, you have to be CONNECTED for it to work - each cell, brick or soldier connected to each other to perform the function of that entity (body/building/army).

Spiritual growth happens best when we are connected to God first, and then to each other. Our spiritual well-being depends on it!

Our lives are enriched when we are part of a community of believers. Sometimes we might get upset, hurt or offended and feel like we'd be better off on our own, but we have to consider:

- A body vs a single cell
- A building vs a single brick
- An aircraft carrier vs one soldier

For example, if a finger decided it no longer wanted anything to do with the rest of the body, the whole would be worse off without that missing part. But the finger, on its own, without a life-giving blood supply, would die.

What are your connections like with God and His people? Lockdown has really tested our connections, but we can't let a physical lockdown hold us back from connecting with others. What if the only way we could connect going forward was virtually?

Steve closed with a quote from *The Jungle Book* (written by Rudyard Kipling in 1894)

*Now this is the law of the jungle
As old and as true as the sky
And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper
But the wolf that shall break it must die.*

*As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk
This law runneth forward and back
For the strength of the pack is the wolf
And the strength of the wolf is the pack*

What is your connection like with 'the pack', the building, the body and the army? How are you doing with being a found person that finds others, and how are you doing as a person whose life is best done with others?