





WELCOME! I AM SO EXCITED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO JOIN US FOR THIS SIX-WEEK "SOUNDS LIKE HOME" TEACHING SERIES. YOU HAVE TAKEN A BIG STEP TOWARD THE HEART OF GOD, AND I BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL USE THIS TIME TO WORK POWERFULLY IN YOUR LIFE.

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRAY AND ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO YOU IN A DEEPER, MORE PERSONAL WAY OVER THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU MAKE JESUS THE CENTER OF YOUR ENTIRE LIFE. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS THAT FUEL YOUR LOVE FOR GOD. ASK HIM TO SEND YOU OUT ON HIS MISSION TO RESTORE THE BROKEN CORNERS OF OUR WORLD.

THIS IS GOING TO BE AN EXCITING SIX WEEKS. GOD WILL STRETCH YOU. HE WILL PUSH YOU. HE WILL HEAL YOU. I AM PRAYING WITH YOU, FULL OF FAITH! LET'S OPEN OUR HEARTS, OPEN OUR HOMES, AND OPEN THIS BOOK – AND LET'S GET TO WORK TOGETHER!

YOUR FRIEND AND SERVANT,

JUSTIN KENDRICK
LEAD PASTOR, CITY CHURCH

WELCOME TO SOUNDS LIKE HOME!

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” - Acts 2:42-47

We are so excited that you have taken this next step to host a CityChurch Community Group for the next six weeks. God has put a burden and a desire on our hearts to see people living in authentic Christian community all across New England, and community groups are the best way for us to see this dream come to life. Each week, CityChurch Community Groups gather in people’s homes to talk about Jesus and encourage each other in their relationships with Him. Lives are transformed through these groups, and we are thrilled that you are joining us on this mission!

“Sounds Like Home” will explore our three core values as a church: Jesus at the Center, Intentional Community, and City Mission. Together, we are going to discover the truths that lie behind each of these values: that Jesus is the centerpiece of human history, that Christians were intended to become more like Jesus together, and that we have been called to bring change to our world through serving and sacrifice. Everything we do at CityChurch is founded upon these three core values.

For the next six weeks, you and your group will be meeting weekly to watch a short video teaching by Lead Pastor Justin Kendrick, and will all participate in discussion using our application questions found in this Host Book. Before your group meeting, we strongly encourage you to preview the video teaching and read over the application questions. This will help you to familiarize yourself with the content and be best prepared for your group.

Again, we are so excited to partner with you in this campaign! The entire staff at CityChurch is praying for your group. We cannot wait to hear stories of God expanding your faith over the next six weeks! God Bless!

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WEEK 1 APPLICATION:

JESUS AT THE CENTER (PART 1)

In this first video, Justin focuses on the first core value of CityChurch: the centrality of Jesus and how it shapes our view of God. Question #3 asks if anyone in your group needs to turn their life over to Jesus tonight. It's exciting to be a part of this! Please take your time, allow God to speak to individuals and don't rush this. Don't be afraid of a few moments of silence as your friends consider their relationship with God. To wrap up question # 3, you can ask those who've prayed to share what God is doing in their heart at this moment.

1. During his talk, Justin looks at the centrality of Jesus as primary to the core values of CityChurch. He read a quote from AW Tozer that stated: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

Take 1-2 minutes and think about what comes to mind as you complete this sentence:

God is _____.

Share your answer and briefly explain why you chose those words to finish that sentence.

2. As a group, revisit this Scripture: *"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."* - John 1:14

This verse talks about the Incarnation (or the truth that God is close). Do you believe that God is close to you? Why or why not? How differently would you live if you believed this?

3. Have you made a personal choice to make Jesus king of your life? This means that you've come to God humbly confessing your need for Him. You've acknowledged that you were separated from your Creator because of sin, but now you want to place your trust in the sacrifice that Jesus made on your behalf. If you haven't turned your life over to God yet, would you be willing to do that tonight? If so, let's pray together:

O God, I turn my heart toward You. I confess that I've lived far from You and trusted in things other than You. But today, I turn from my sin and my self, and I acknowledge my deep need for You. I believe that Jesus took my sin, my shame, my guilt on the Cross and made the way for me to come to know You, God. I receive forgiveness for my sin, I receive a new heart, and I believe that this is a new day for me. Holy Spirit, come live inside my heart. Thank you, Heavenly Father for Your amazing love toward me. Amen.



WEEK 1 NOTES:

WEEK 2 APPLICATION: JESUS AT THE CENTER (PART 2)

In this second video, we continue to examine the centrality of Jesus, and how our understanding of this forms our true value, identity, and purpose.

1. As you reflect on this video teaching, talk about how your ethnicity, family, friends, and possessions have formed your identity. The Gospel brings a greater and eternal perspective in our lives. How do you think your view of possessions, ethnicity, achievements, and relationships can change in light of what you've heard in today's teaching?

2. The value of an object can be found in the price someone is willing to pay for it. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 3:18 that Christ suffered and died for us, for our sin. He traded His perfect life for our sinful, broken life. Apply the truth of Jesus' sacrifice to your life: How valuable are you to God? If you believed this with your whole heart, how would your life change today?

3. As a Christian, we read in the Bible (Ephesians 1:11) that it's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we're living for. When we turn our hearts to God and believe the Gospel, our identity begins to shift. Talk about parts of your identity that God has worked in (for example, self-worth, choices, affections, etc). What other aspects of your identity would you like God to redeem?

4. The truth of the centrality of Jesus means that we find incredible purpose in our lives. In John 15:16, Jesus tells us that He chose us to go and bear fruit that will last. Do you sense God stirring greater purpose in your life?

Break into groups of two or three and share what you feel God is saying. If you're not sure, pray for one another, asking that each person would receive purpose from God.



WEEK 2 NOTES:

WEEK 3 APPLICATION:

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY (PART 1)

Our third video in this series dives into our second core value at CityChurch. This value looks at the importance of intentional community in the life of a follower of Jesus.

1. Today's culture celebrates the concept of autonomy, that is, the belief we can live independent of others. This pervasive life principle convinces us to build our life, happiness, comfort, and pleasure without building close and deep relationships with others. On a scale of 1 to 10, where does your life land on the 'autonomy scale'. What life experiences fortified your independent mindset? As you reflect on Justin's teaching today, what one insight stands out in contrast to this independent lifestyle?

2. Justin mentioned that since creation, God has said that it is not good for humans to be alone. Our first deep core connection must be with God. What spiritual disciplines are in your life to support your relationship with God (i.e. Bible reading, prayer, godly friendships etc)? Where do you sense a need for growth in your daily connection with God and what is a practical step you can take this week to move toward this?

3. In his teaching, Justin mentioned the trade-offs needed in order to build intentional community. The first one is trading independence for interdependence. What attitudes, beliefs, or experiences stop you from admitting your need for interdependence or letting few people really know you? Pray together and let these hindrances go. Name one new attitude you will adopt that will move you away from independence and toward interdependence. (for example: trust, honesty, vulnerability, etc.)

4. Another trade-off tells us to exchange contract for covenant. This idea is foreign in today's culture. Contracts are easily broken when the circumstances no longer benefit us. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. By focusing on the incredible forgiveness and covenant we have with Jesus, we can become covenant people.

Take a few moments and pray together. Ask God to show you the things you need to let go of (for example: unforgiveness, anger, shame, etc) in order to trade in your contracts for covenants. What action can you take this week? This may include conversations to extend forgiveness, apologizing to someone you've hurt, or restoring trust in a relationship.



WEEK 3 NOTES:

WEEK 4 APPLICATION:

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY (PART 2)

Our fourth video unpacks the concept of intentional community. Justin focuses on the accountability relationships that come from living in genuine community. For question #3, we suggest the group breaks up into men and women separately. Also, in your “Sounds Like Home” kit, you will find Accountability Questions. Please be prepared to distribute these to everyone in your group at the end of the session.

1. The practice of accountability means we have an inner circle of mature people who know, love, and challenge us. Honestly discuss what either appeals to you about this principle or what keeps you from participating in these types of close relationships.

2. Reflecting back on your answers to question #1, what specific issues keep you from being vulnerable and accountable to others (fear, past experiences, pride, etc). What practical steps can you take this week to face and overcome these issues? Who will you reach out to this week to begin building your inner circle? (Remember: these individuals range from those who are in the same season of life as you to others who are more mature in life and faith).

3. Break up into groups of two or three people of the same gender. Read Hebrews 10:24 -25, then answer the following questions:

a). CONSIDER: What areas in your life do you need to become more self-aware of patterns that hinder you from following Jesus (examples: neglecting time with God, sexual temptation, addiction, fear, etc).

b). STIR UP : We only become what God intends for us to become when others stir us up. Who are the trusted people in your life that stir or provoke you to change? Do you resist change? If so, why? How have you changed when you have listened to the stirring?

c). INVEST: Whose life are you intentionally investing in? If there's no one, what's holding you back? (i.e., busyness, insecurity, selfishness, etc) Are you willing to begin investing? If so, in whom?

d). ENCOURAGE: We learned from today's teaching that our words bring life and have the power to transform others. Talk about who you will encourage this week with your words. Resolve to encourage at least one person each day this week.



WEEK 4 NOTES:





WEEK 5 APPLICATION:

CITY MISSION (PART 1)

This week, Justin digs into the third core value of CityChurch: being on mission with Jesus in this broken world.

1. In this world, we often find the mentality that says we are not our brother's keeper. Talk about why it can be easy to convince ourselves that what's happening to others around us is 'not our problem.' This week, what principle or insight from today's teaching will you adopt into your life to go against the natural tendency to ignore the needs of others?

2. Read Luke 4:18-19. These verses talk about the mission of Jesus. Talk about the areas of freedom you have found in your life through your relationship with Jesus. For example, how has the good news of His love for you brought freedom, where have your eyes been opened to truth, or where do you see old patterns of sin no longer controlling you?

3. What are some of the internal and external needs of those around you? Do you find yourself unaware or avoiding those areas of brokenness? If you decided to live on mission with God, how could you help heal the brokenness or meet the need? What steps will you take this week to be more aware and involved with others?

4. Compassion together with action can be risky and will cost us something. Each CityChurch campus has an outreach director and a multitude of opportunities to get involved and serve.

Encourage each person to talk about the areas they are currently involved in at CityChurch. What drew you to that area? If you're not involved, why not? What area would interest you? (some examples are: servant team, CityKids, local outreach, social events, service projects, etc.)



WEEK 5 NOTES:

WEEK 6 APPLICATION:

CITY MISSION (PART 2)

Our last video in this series continues to unpack the CityChurch value of being on mission with Jesus. The focus this week is how we must partner with Jesus to seek and save the lost in our world. In the "Sounds Like Home" kit, you'll find several items you will need for today's group. Please be ready with: prayer cards, pens, and testimony application sheets. Directions for distribution are given with each question.

1. One of the most important topics we can ever discuss is eternity, yet many of us are fearful to talk about God with others. Take just a few minutes and honestly discuss what stops you from sharing Jesus with others. What is one truth from this week's teaching that can help you overcome your fear?

2. Prayer moves the heart of God! Justin spoke of a verse in the Bible that says "God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:3-4). Who in your life right now is far from God? Pass out the prayer card to your group. Take a moment of quiet prayer and let God show you four people to pray for. Write those names down. Commit to use this card to pray for these people everyday. Believe that they will come to know Christ!

3. Your story is your testimony and it is powerful! God wants to use it and you on mission with Him! Now pass out the Testimony Application Sheet to your group.

Quietly and on your own, take five to seven minutes to complete this sheet. Then, break into groups of two and practice sharing your story with one another.





WEEK 6 NOTES:

YOU STAY
HOLD ON
STEADY WE



WITH ME
DREAMS
WITH LOVE





ADDITIONAL NOTES:



ADDITIONAL NOTES:



ADDITIONAL NOTES:



ADDITIONAL NOTES:



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