

SERMON SERIES: For Everyone

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Sermon Title

“We Help Each Other Follow Jesus”

Introduction

This week, we continued our series called “For Everyone”. Over the next few weeks, we are going to be focusing on the different values of Calvary, rooted in Scripture, that are essential for us to continue in the work of our mission: To Make Disciples Who Live and Love Like Jesus. This value that we are going to talk about this week, one that we embrace here, is “**We Help Each Other Follow Jesus**”. Our lives are not meant to be lived alone, and our journey with Jesus is not to be walked alone. Instead, God calls us to community and fellowship that is designed to help one another follow Jesus and grow closer as individuals and a community. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- When was a time that you helped someone out of a difficult situation? It could have been a flat tire, a financial situation, or just a difficult period in their life. What was that like?

Seek the Word

Read Hebrews 10:24-25 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- How does this passage emphasize the importance of community in our faith journey?
- How does this idea of “the Day approaching” affect your perspective on being in intentional Christian community?

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does Solomon teach us about the value of partnership and community?
- When was a time when you tried to go about a struggle by yourself, and someone came along to help you out? What did you learn when you saw this value put into practice?

Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud, then answer the questions below?

- What practices did the early church engage in that demonstrated their commitment to living in community?
- What are ways in which we can emulate these practices in our lives currently?

Go Deeper

A stalled car cannot move forward and get to its destination, and a stalled faith cannot grow and impact the lives of the people around you or the Kingdom. Consider your spiritual journey at this point. Do you feel like you are stalled or moving forward? What are some of the factors contributing to this current condition, and what do you feel like you need to do in order to begin/continue moving forward?

Talk About It

- Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” It is important to help others follow Jesus– and be helped in following Jesus– in order to grow and be sharpened. Who is someone in your life that has helped you follow Jesus, and why does their impact stand out to you?
- Do you have someone in your life that you are sharpening or mentoring? What does that process look like? And if you do not, what steps could be taken over the coming weeks to find that person to pour into?
- Life Groups are a great place to help others follow Jesus and walk this faith journey in community. Talk as a group about ways in which you currently support and encourage one another in your faith, and one way that you can improve in that in order to sharpen each other.

Wrap Up

Reminder: We Help Others Follow Jesus. The best way to grow spiritually is to do so in community, with other people who pour into you and you pour into. Scott reminded us this week that “A solo faith is often a slow faith”. In order to *make disciples who live and love like Jesus*, we have to be committed as a body of believers to giving and receiving help so we can all follow Jesus more completely and lead others to doing so themselves.

Challenge for the Week: Look at this list of 3 Ways We Can Help One Another Follow Jesus. Identify which of these you are not currently involved in, and make a plan to invest in these areas in order to help others follow Jesus.

1. Be in a Mentoring Relationship: Identify someone in your life who is older or wiser (or both) and ask them to be a mentor to you, someone who can encourage, support, and equip you to follow Jesus. Also, identify someone in your life who you can mentor, and approach them about starting this relationship where you can help them in their faith.
2. Lead or Join a Life Group: The odds are that if you are reading this, you are already in a Life Group. If that is the case, have an honest conversation with your group about opening yourselves up to more people being involved. And if you are “full”, then start praying for God to identify someone who can start their own Life Group to help others follow Jesus. If you are not in a Life Group, consider joining one! You can find information about groups at calvary.ch/connect or contacting someone on the groups team (Drew Meyer [CSL], Rusty Miller [Bellevue], Mark McCarthy, Elijah Connatser [Young Adults])
3. Join a Serve Team: One of the ways to grow in your faith and help others to grow is to serve. There are many opportunities to get involved in service at Calvary, and if you would like more information go to calvary.ch/serve. This is a great way to put your faith into practice and impact people’s lives on a regular basis.

Prayer: Close your group time by praying for one another. Ask God to help each person identify their "one anothers" and to provide opportunities to both give and receive support in their faith journey. Pray for courage to step out and engage in meaningful relationships that honor God and build His kingdom.