

Title: Disciples Connect with People

Theme: Disciples are part of God's people and work to connect with others in vital relationships in their local church.

Text: Acts 2:46-47

I. Introduction - The Joy of Jigsaw Puzzles

As the puzzle needs the piece and the piece needs the puzzle, so does the Body need the individual and the individual needs the Body.

II. The Principle: What Is the Reason Disciples Connect with People

A. Example of the Apostles (Acts 2:46)

B. Emulate Jesus:

1. Jesus poured His life into the 12 disciples (Mark 3:14-15; Matthew 26:20)
2. Jesus invested extra into 3—Peter, James and John (Mark 5:37; Matthew 17:1)

C. Encourage each other: Stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24-25)

III. The Process: What Do Disciples Do When They Connect with People

A. Fellowship (Acts 2:42)

B. Meeting one another's needs (Acts 2:44)

C. Break bread together (Acts 2:46)

D. Strengthen and sharpen each other through the Word (Acts 2:42; Pr 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

- E. Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- F. Sharing one another's joys and pains (Romans 12:15)
- G. Praying together (Acts 12:12)
- H. Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:1-2; Ja 5:16)

IV. The Product: What Are the Results When Disciples Connect with People

- A. Shared burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- B. Accountability (Hebrews 3:13)
- C. Create meaningful, long-term relationships (Acts 20:36-38)
- D. Grateful hearts (Acts 2:46)
- E. Picture of God
 - 1. Exhibiting various gifts of the Spirit
 - 2. Emphasizing various graces of God
- F. Grow in Love
 - 1. Treasuring others (Matthew 5:19-21)
 - 2. World knows us by our love for each other (John 13:35)
- G. The church grows (Ac 2:47)

V. Applying the Word

Bay Ridge Christian Church's primary method to fulfill this aspect of discipleship is through our Connect Groups

Ask yourself these questions:

- A. Do I regularly attend and participate in a Connect Group? (If not, why not?)

B. Do I reach out to other Believers on a regular basis for the purpose of making a Godly Connection? (If not, why not?)

C. Do I realize that I am like a puzzle piece in the picture of the Body of Christ?

D. Do I realize that I am only truly effective as a Christian when I am Connecting regularly with God's people?

E. Who are we truly connecting with today?