

Week 3. Love Connected – Connected to the World

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 Love Connected Week 1: Connected to the Source	 Love Connected Week 2: Connected to Each Other
1. God is the power source 2. Dwelling, Not Earning 3. The Overflow <i>But once filled — where is that love supposed to go?</i>	1. The Defining Mark – Reflecting Agape 2. Proximity Problem 3. Circles, Not Just Rows

Once we are plugged in to God and gathered together in community — where does that love go? This week answers the final, important question of the series.

What Kind of Church Are We?

When the church gets comfortable, we face a massive identity crisis. Two kinds of boats:

CRUISE SHIP: Consumer mindset. Evaluate the food. Complain about the music. Church is for _____.

RESCUE BOAT: Everyone has a job. Nobody debates the paint color. Eyes on the dark water, scanning for the _____.

Point 1: We Are Sent Back

Jesus told His disciples after a long day of teaching:

“Let us cross over to the _____.” Mark 4:35

A massive storm hit:

“And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already _____.” Mark 4:37

Absorbed in their efforts to save themselves, they had _____ that Jesus was on board. Now, seeing their labor vain and only death before them, they remembered at whose command they had set out to cross the sea. In Jesus was their only _____. Desire of Ages 334

Jesus was asleep. The disciples woke Him in a panic. He stood and said to the storm:

“_____, be _____!”

Mark 4:39

They reached the other shore, and Jesus was immediately met by a man who was possessed, isolated, living in the tombs, and bleeding from self-inflicted cuts. The sight of him was more terrible than the fury of the storm they had just crossed.

When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me. Mark 5:6-7

But Jesus looked past his past. He healed the man completely. The man begged to stay in the boat with Jesus — but Jesus said:

“And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. Go home to your friends, and tell them what _____ things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had _____ on you.” Mark 5:18-19

KEY POINT: Jesus saved him and then _____ him back. You are not saved to sit in the boat. You are sent back out to share what the Lord has done for you.

Note: And if you are sitting here today and feel more like the man in the tombs than a rescuer — that is okay. Jesus crossed that storm for you too. He is not done with you yet.

The Heart of God

A shepherd has 100 sheep. 99 are safe. 1 is missing. What does the shepherd do?

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the _____ which is lost until he _____ it?” Luke 15:4

KEY POINT: God is absolutely _____ with the one who is missing. While the 99 are safe, the Shepherd recklessly pursues the 1.

Point 2: The Method of the Rescue

We do what Jesus did.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour _____ with men as one who desired their good. He showed His _____ for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”
Ministry of Healing, p. 143

The five-step progression of Agape Love:

1. _____ with them
2. Show _____

3. _____ to their needs
4. Win their _____
5. Then: “ _____ ”

We have to earn the right to be heard. We have to hold the corners of their mat before we ask them to walk.

Point 3: The Empty Chair

A church doesn't accidentally make room for new people. We have to be deeply _____ about it.

Every Life Group needs an Empty Chair — a physical, constant reminder that your group is a _____ boat, not a _____ ship. There is always room for one more.

Who Is Your One?

Is it a coworker drowning in a failing marriage? A neighbor who is completely isolated? A family member who has walked away from the faith? Someone who was a member here and hasn't come back?

My one person: _____

Write their name down. Put it in your phone. Hold the Empty Chair for them.

This Week's Homework:

1. Hold Your Chair Empty

The Empty Chair in your Life Group is not a piece of furniture — it is a mission statement. Commit to keeping it open and praying for your one person by name this week.

2. Take One Step This Week

Don't invite them to church yet. Just take ONE step. Send a text. Show up. Use Christ's method — mingle first.

One step I will take: _____

3. Where Are You in the Progression?

Look at the five steps from Ministry of Healing. Circle where you are right now with your one person:

MINGLE → SYMPATHIZE → MINISTER → WIN
CONFIDENCE → INVITE

RESCUE & SAFETY MISSIONS

