

CONNECTING IN A DISCONNECTED AGE

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The world has never been so connected, and people have never felt so disconnected.

In such a strange moment, how is the Lord calling us to live?

What are the challenges of connecting in our culture and in our church?

How does Jesus model a whole new way of living, loving, and connecting?

1. LIFE IN THIS DISCONNECTED AGE

Illustrations

- Chick Fil-A
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Judah and the Lion, "Over My Head"

Observations

- In superficial ways, we are connected like never before.
- In meaningful ways, we are disconnected like never before.
- We long for deeper connection, but there are many challenges.
- "Let him who cannot be alone beware of community...
Let him who is not in community beware of being alone." Bonhoeffer

Discussion Questions

1. *What are the general challenges of connecting in our culture?*
2. *What are the particular challenges of connecting in our church?*
3. *Are there challenges that are unique to young adults?*
4. *What are you hoping for in this area?*

2. THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

The Heart of the Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. Psalm 23:1

**And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark,
He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. Mark 1:35**

Why does it matter to me that Jesus pursued a deep connection with the Father?

The Eyes of the Shepherd

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36

When people looked at _____, what did they see? What did Jesus see?

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him... Mark 10:21

Why does it matter to me that Jesus saw people and loved them?

The Mission of the Shepherd

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep... I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” John 10:10-11, 16

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.” John 17:20-21

Why does it matter to me that Jesus laid down His life for the sheep?

3. LIFE IN CHRIST

“Lord, give us Your heart!”

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“If our purpose as pastors is to do large things, famously, as fast as possible so that everyone is mobilized to do great things by fixing everything, knowing it all, and being everywhere for God, this purpose and quiet are at odds.”

*Zack Eswine, *The Imperfect Pastor*, p. 151*

Abiding – How can we follow Jesus in pursuing a deep connection with the Lord?

“Lord, give us Your eyes!”

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“Lord, give us Your mission!”

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

Discussion Questions

5. *What stands out to you about the heart, the eyes, and/or the mission of Jesus?*
6. *What role does hospitality play in helping our church connect? How can you help?*
7. *What role does shepherding play in helping our church connect? How can you help?*
8. *With God’s help, what’s one thing you want to do this week in response to this message?*