

Welcome Weekend
06/08/2019
Newport News Campus

Opening

- preschool and BASP
- SFK Campus signup...

Introduction

-the idea behind welcome weekends is to just pause throughout the year and talk about who we are as a church but do it through a sermon...which in itself I believe says something about our church...the Bible is instructive not just for us personally but also us collectively as a church!

-(tell story of Claire visiting a church...)

Jesus Finding Peter

-Matthew 4:18-22 (talk about didactic vs. narrative)

- ***City Life is a place where people discover the idea that Jesus is looking for them!***
- (talk about your dinner meeting this week)
- notice the text, Jesus finds us where we are!
- (tell story of praying with Mike for Bill...Jesus loved them and they mattered...watching us now...Hebrews, Heaven binge watching...)

-Jesus loves you, you matter to Him...and it doesn't matter what your life looks like...and if Jesus isn't a part of the story of your life...He's looking for you! (all the stories in this room of people who have been found by Jesus!!!)

Jesus Loving Peter

-Luke 5:5-8

- **City Life is a place where people can feel safe to wrestle with their past!**
- (tell story of Danielle Strickland and her intercessor friend)

-20 years of pastoral ministry...and what I've learned is that people don't have a hard time believing in God...they have a hard time accepting that God believes in them!

-shame robs people of their future more than anything that I have ever seen...

-Peter uses the word that means "miss the mark" an archery term...shame.

-Jesus has plans for you! He believes in you...and I know some of you hear tonight, you feel like Peter...my promise to you is that at City Life, we aren't afraid your past or your present...Jesus heals, Jesus forgives, Jesus commissions, Jesus finds, and Jesus loves!

Jesus Moving Peter

-Matthew 16:15-18

- **City Life is a place for dismantling walls that isolate and building communities that invite!**
- Peter is "petros" which is a stone or a rock
- Rock is "petra" which can be a large stone but it can also be rocky ledge meaning a large group of rocks joined together...
- Church is "ekklesia" which is a public assembly, literally meaning is "called out ones"

-Jesus is moving Peter out of a religious system that : *isolates, elevates, excludes, demeans, ignores, wounds, manipulates, and neglects!!!*

-This is why they killed Jesus...He was dismantling their religious systems.

-how about the disciples with Jesus: tell the kids to go away, tell the Syro-Phoenician woman to shut up, they didn't accept us let's destroy them with fire from Heaven, Jesus you shouldn't talk to that woman...

-Jesus is moving Peter into "the church" which is supposed to: *connect, equalize, include, affirm, attend to, heal, inspire, and provides!!!!*

-Too many churches have become what Jesus worked to hard to dismantle!!!!

-Jesus wants to move you...move me...to build a church community that gives life, the best kind of life, what He calls eternal life!

Band

-Message: heaven now...Heaven forever!

-Moment: You are family from the first hello!

-Mission: To build the church Jesus envisioned to love the world He died to save!

Close

- (determine in the moment)