

**Welcome Weekend**  
**06/26/21**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

-next series!!!!!!

-vision behind Welcome Weekends (this week through the life of Peter)

**Jesus Finding Peter**

-Matthew 4:18-22

***City Life is a safe place where people discover the idea that Jesus is looking for them...Encounter!***

-What are some of your most memorable moments?

- Seeing wife in the doorway at your wedding
- Your child being born
- Acceptance letter to college...scholarship letter
- For prom, they said yes!

-How about the feeling of being found by Jesus!

- Summer of 1990 at Tobacco Company...
- Started Reading the Bible...
- December of 1990 on Laburnam Ave...
- He's looking for you..."Be in My family!"

-1 Corinthians 14:24 (explain idea of "awakening")

- the mic we have with us... (transitions are unscripted)
- worship is to awaken...
- preaching is to awaken...
- prayer is to awaken...
- gathering IS to awaken...

-If you have made a vow of devotion to Jesus...then your **FIRST** reason for coming to church **SHOULD** be to **create a crowd** that inspires people to believe that Jesus is looking for them! (Every week I believe that feeling is waiting for someone here!)

## Jesus Loving Peter

-Luke 5:5-8

***City Life is a safe place where people help each other see their sin...Embrace!***

**-I believe the church Jesus envisions for City Life is a diverse church...**and one reason for that is that we need people who look and think differently **than we do to help us see our blind spots!**

(echo chambers eventually call sin virtue!) (Acts 15:39) (par-ox-oos-mos)

-Hebrews 10:24...we have an appetite for provocation!

(we must stop humanizing Biblical love!)

-Diversity through **celebration!** (Thank you Madeline Harris for this...)

*"Everyone has their own unique passions as well as their distinct burdens. We are responsible to pay attention to what moves us and respond in faith. The body of Christ grows when each member gives what they have to give- that applies not only to our gifting but also to our burdens. What breaks your heart might not break mine. You are not responsible to convince me to change, you are responsible to be generous in the areas you feel called to. Offer what you have in the presence of others. Pray over what breaks your heart in the presence of God." Emily Freeman - A Million Little Ways: Uncover the Art You Were Made to Live.*

-Don't be offended by someone else's **passion OR their burden**...care enough to learn about them and BELIEVE that God has a passion and burden for you! (**Galatians 6, doesn't say silence their burden!**)

-Nehemiah 1:3-4, 2:1-4 (ref.) (what is your first question?)

- Are they right?
- Do I agree or support their cause?
- What did they do to deserve this?

-Diversity through **confidence!**

>Explain confident pluralism vs. political correctness

>a confident pluralism here isn't about winning...it's about learning and bringing your ideas to the marketplace of ideas...truth always prevails!!!! (truth is the GOAT...undefeated!)

>morality vs. matters of conscience (6/12 Sermon, MC)

>Philippians 2:1-4 (ref...make room for the minds of others!)

-Diversity through **collaboration!**

>Imago Dei...stop rejecting a part of God that you don't understand!!!!

*If you can't serve Jesus along side people who are dramatically different than you are, you are rejecting that part of God that He is revealing to the world through them!*

- **Personalities**
  - **Doctrinal beliefs**
  - **Spiritual gifts**
  - **Church Preferences**
  - **Politics**
  - **World Views**
  - **Social Ills**
- (modern day Pharisee...)**

>Remember...we need people who are different than we are (acknowledge moral boundaries still matter) to help us see the sin we can't see ourselves!

### **Jesus Moving Peter**

-Matthew 16:15-18 (from ME centered to GOD centered)

***City Life is a safe place where people discover they have a part to play in God's mission...Engage!***

**-God's mission: to reconcile the world to Himself thru Jesus!**

-Trust God's plans for your passions and burdens!!!!

*-I don't know what your part is...but I do know City Life's part...and if God is calling you to align your p's and b's with ours then welcome!*

**-Our Message** (to reconcile the world to God through Jesus)

>Psalm 27:13

>heaven now...Heaven forever!

>John 6:60-68 (ref...never negotiate truth for a bigger crowd)

**-Our Moment** (to reconcile the world to God through Jesus)

>You are family from the first hello!

>participation brings transformation!

**-Our Mission** (to reconcile the world to God through Jesus)

>to build the church Jesus envisioned, to love the world He died to save!

>John 12:32

>building the character of Christ in people is the most important aspect of building His church if that church is going to point people to Him!

>Praxis...

**Band**

**-Our Miracle** (to reconcile the world to God through Jesus)

>I believe the church He envisions here at 311 Selden Road is where He intends to work a relationship miracle!

*>I believe the world is longing to see that The Church is still capable of doing something that is impossible anywhere else, and I believe that miracle is demonstrating that people can be of one heart even when they are not of one mind.*

>May of 2019...I believe that miracle was because God wanted to establish a place for a relationship miracle...(sermon Jan 30<sup>th</sup>)

**Close**

...we are a church leading the 757 into His presence, with His family, for His mission!