

**Welcome Weekend**  
**03/06/21**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

- Business Meeting reminder AND We need your “trades” skills!!!!!!
- next series!!!!!!!
- vision behind Welcome Weekends (this week through the life of Peter)
- Discover City Life...

**Jesus Finding Peter**

- Matthew 4:18-22 (talk about lunch with college friend...)

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

- 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 know God, 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 awakens people to a living God so they can Encounter Him!!!

- (tell story of friend finding her father)

**Jesus Loving Peter**

- Luke 5:5-8 (talk about omission vs. commission)

***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!**

-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!**)

-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!!!!

>morality vs. matters of conscience

>Philippians 2:1-4 (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 (modern day Pharisee...)
- World Views
- Social Ills

>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!**

-(tell story of soon after making a vow of devotion to Jesus and seeing a man on a street corner with huge wooden sign draped over himself preaching...my pray of "Please don't make me do that!")

-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**

>Psalm 27:13

>heaven now...Heaven forever!

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

### **-Our Moment**

>You are family from the first hello!

>participation brings transformation!

## **-Our Mission**

>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...

## **Close/Communion**

### **-Our Miracle**

>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!