

Launch of Connect Grow Serve
3/2/08

Welcome: (Bulletin, What's on)

Pray:

Song: Worthy of all praise or Blessed by your name

Simplify: "Out of Complexity find simplicity": Albert Einstein (on screen)

Apple knows this: Logo, Computer, Ipod

Google: Web search engine

Nike: the swish

Graphic Designers Know this.

There is a simple revolution happening.

Growing Vibrant Church's know this.

Survey of 400 evangelical churches the difference between vibrant growing church's and non-growing or struggling churches.

Results were stunning, beyond anyone's imagining. A 0.001 correlation.

It showed that church's that have moved to a simple church's, ones with a simple process of reaching and maturing people are the ones that are growing church's that don't aren't.

A simple process of moving people.

That is what we are going to present to you today.

How we see our simple process for maturing you and reaching our community.

Our simple process is based on Jesus. His simple process

Matt 28:16

Then Jesus came to them and said " All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age.

What are we on about, what is our simple purpose/process here at Evans Head Presbyterian Church?

To make disciples of Jesus.

Our aim is: (on the screen)

To reach out to the community with the good news of Jesus to see people's lives transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus.

It is simple, notice too that it is not a stagnant aim. This aim has movement, From people not knowing Jesus to connecting to Jesus, to growing in Jesus and to serving Jesus.

What does a follower of Jesus look like?

One who obeys all Jesus commanded?

I think Jesus nailed it when he was asked pretty much the same question.

And Jesus simplified to, the Great Commandment:

Matt 26:36-40

Jesus said. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like it. " Love your neighbour as yourself"

Love God with everything and Love each other with all you've got.

How can we as a church help us do that? 3 words

CONNECT GROW SERVE

This is how we believe we as a church can help all of us and our community be transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus.

To be transformed into people that are growing in love with God, growing in love with each other and looking at how we take that to our community.

CONNECT GROW SERVE.

Song: Glories of Calvary

Pray:

CONNECT:

Lego Demonstration

(Chn's song - Jesus is the King)

It is all about Jesus, Jesus is the one that connects us to God and connects us to each other.

Jesus is the one that restores our relationship with God and our relationships with each other.

In the word connect we desire to see people from our community to connect with God and with us here.

We want you here to be connecting with God and with each other through your relationship with Jesus.

We believe the best place to do that is here at church, it is a place where each week people can come and can be guaranteed that they will hear about Jesus, hear about how God has restored their relationship through Jesus and then they will see how that is demonstrated through us here.

We believe here at church is where that will happen for you.

We will also be looking at ways of connecting to the community through some groups we run:

Mum's and Bub's

Craft Group

Friday Youth

SRE

But we are not going to clutter the stage, because we want you to be in the community being the ones that are a step in the process of our community connecting with God.

In what we are saying today we are actually saying we are going to scale down our programs and concentrate on the process.

We are going to scale down the programs so as to make it a simple process.

We are going to scale down the programs so as to give you the chance to live lives worthy of Jesus in the community that Jesus has placed you.

CONNECT: Connecting to God, to each other and to the community through Jesus.

Song: In Christ Alone

GROW: Picture on the screen.

Our escapades as gardeners.

Lemon tree - planted as a sapling, looked after it, cared for it, watered it, with both water and urine, placed it in the right place. And now look it is producing some great fruit.

But it didn't just happen, we didn't just leave the plant, when we did that with our garden at Ash St it now is just a square area of weeds.
We were deliberate, we cared for, nurtured and it grew.

Notice in our aim to see lives transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus. Notice that there is movement there, there is a sense of growing towards a goal.

Growth is all around us.

For a person it is an embryo, a baby, an infant, a child, a teenager etc

For a plant it is from a seed, to a sprout, to a seedling, etc

For a Christian it is not start excited, go onto think it is a good thing, to listless, to stone cold bored.

No it is movement to growth.

From seeker to connected to God in Jesus, connecting with each other, growing more in love with God and people, to serving God, each other and the community and growing in that desire and excitement.

We desire to see you grow.

We desire to see our congregation grow.

We desire to see us grow bigger and better.

Growth in numbers will come as we grow better, because as we grow better we will grow in our desire to see others connect to God and we will be in our community sharing our lives and sharing our love of God with people.

We believe that best way for you to grow better is to spend time with others learning more about Jesus:

Acts 2:42: (on screen)

AC 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Context:

Notice what they were doing: Getting together, eating together and devoted to the apostles teaching. And they would have been praying together

That is what growth groups are all about. Getting together regularly, eating together, at supper or a meal and spending time listening to the apostles teaching which is listening to the Bible, praying together

God loves growth, numerically but ultimately spiritually.

He loves to see peoples lives being transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus.

And growth groups are a great way to do just that.

We desire everyone to connect to God through Jesus, we desire that everyone Grows in that love for God through Jesus and their love for each other we desire that everyone here is in a growth group.

Come along Tuesday night and find out more.

Song: Kingdom Song

Have you noticed the movement, from connecting because of Jesus to growing in Jesus and we believe that the next part of the process is Serving like Jesus

SERVING: (picture and title on screen)

Mark 10:45

"For even the son of man (Jesus) did not come to be served but give his life as a ransom for many"

This verse tells us so much, about Jesus, about why he came and about what service is like.

When we talk about living like Jesus, being imitators of Jesus ,Serving like Jesus we are talking about having the same character as Jesus.

We are not talking about all those people out there who Imitators who dress up like Elvis, it is not about looks, it is not about outward appearance it is all about character, how we treat people, about our priorities.

And one of Jesus priorities was to serve, to live his life out of love for God, out of obedience to God by living it in service to others.

And from this verse we see that it is a sacrificial service.

Out of Love.

So in our process of being transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus we see that serving Jesus is vital.

Now when we talk of service we are talking about serving out of Love.
Not serving out of duty.

When we put up on the projector in a minute all the opportunities that you have to serve Jesus can I make 2 things clear,

1) We don't want you to put your name down out of duress, we don't want you to say yes to a ministry, but have to be taken there kicking and screaming.

No this is service out of love, out of knowing you are loved by God.

2) Secondly we don't want you to think that by serving that you are in some way contributing to getting into heaven, serving out of religion.

The only way to heaven is through Jesus, you connect with God for all eternity through Jesus, nothing you do can change that, or add to that.

Out of God's great love for you, he saves you, you don't save yourself, your service doesn't save you, can't save you,

Remember the Duplo.

But it is a service out of love, out of gratitude.

(Illust:)

You serve out of the fact that you know you are loved by God not to try and get love from God.

Service with your time, with your talents, with your gifts, with your possessions and with your money.

Here it is to see lives transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus we see that we need to

Connect - with God, with each other, with the community through Jesus

- Mainly here at church

Grow - in our love for God and each other as we learn about Jesus at

Growth Groups

Serve - Jesus, each other at church and the community through the power of the Holy Spirit to the Glory of God

- One area of ministry

Simple process, simple steps - freedom to reach out to our community with the good news of Jesus as we are not tied up with so much church stuff that we suddenly find the only people we have relationships with are those who are already followers of Jesus.

At the end of Acts 2

"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

We want to reach our community for Jesus, for them to connect to God through Jesus, For them to grow in Jesus, for them to serve like Jesus. Explain that we are desiring all who come to be here Sunday, to be at a growth group during the week, and to take on an area of service. No more than that

Explain our saved to serve sheet.
Here are some options for service;
(Put up on Data Projector)
Sheets in the foyer etc

Pray:

Lord's Supper:

As we commit ourselves, each other to this vision we need to remember why we are here at all, We need to remember the one who took us from one side of the duplo chasm to the other. We need to remember how Jesus re-connected us to God.
Do this now in the Lord's Supper.
Invite all who trust in Jesus

Read 1 Cor 11

Song: How great is our God

We desire to reach our community with the goodnews of Jesus to see lives transformed into vibrant followers of Jesus.

We are going to do that as we look to

Connect - people to God, to each other, to the community through Jesus

Grow - in love with God and each other as we learn more about Jesus

Serve - God, each other and the community by the power of the Spirit to the glory of God.

CONNECT GROW SERVE.