

# The Community that Changed the World

*Date:* Sunday, May 27, 2018

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Intro: Greeting from Seven Lakes, NC. I'm the site pastor there and also an elder there for many years, my wife of 30 years is Joanna Coxe she was the children's ministry director at both campus.

We came there 28 years ago, I would go so far as to say we looked pretty good on the **outside**, we were young, had good jobs... but on the **inside** we broken and at best living a nominal Christian life. That changed here in community!

We love the Church because Church is not a building it's people, "The People of God!"

That's how we believe God sees it, God has always desired a People for himself, a people he could **reveal** his glory to and people he could **display** his glory through.

God has always been about Community

**Genesis 1:26**

26Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

**Genesis 2:18**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;

And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,

God has always desired a People for himself

Jesus himself lived in community – he had the 12 that he poured into as he fulfilled His mission here on earth.

After Jesus's death, burial and resurrection he gave his disciples two commands, **Go into all the world**, but before you go **wait in Jerusalem** for the promise of the Holy Spirit

I'm going to read the story of the **birth of the church** and then we are going to pray - Two questions: Lord what are you saying about my place in this and what do you want me to do about it.

### **Acts 2 (NIV)**

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.  
"Common Purpose"

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.

46 They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness, 47 praising God. The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved.

We want to do Church Jesus's way:

The Church exists to: Depopulate Hell and Fill Heaven

We do that by Loving God, Loving others and loving our World

We believe God does that in three ways: **The church or our Sunday morning experience, small Groups and outreach**

We believe the church must grow larger and smaller at the same time.

The Myth about big church

- We need quality not quantity.
- God isn't interested in numbers – every number has a name and is important to God.
- Big Churches are impersonal.

Truths about big church

God wants everyone to be saved

**Luke 14:23 (ESV)**

‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.

The Sunday morning experience is about sharing the Good News

Josh and Kara Took a Couple to Church

Kara came to Christ at our dinner table

Jesus said this way:

**Luke 19:10 (ERV)**

10 **The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.”**

Jacob’s Story -Have you ever lost a child? Anybody that would have helped me through that **search process** I would have been grateful, I think the Lord is the same way

Luke 15 Jesus share’s three stories about lost things and in all three we says he would leave what is found to go after what is lost!

**You are a part of that wherever you serve!**

Share about praying for the single mom who worked at Moe’s

There is strength in numbers

**Eccl 4:12 (ESV)**

12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Earthquake in Nepal April 25 10,000 dollars went from the Easter offering  
April 5th

Relationships must be a core value

**1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)**

8so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

The Church is Plan A, there is no plan B

I liken it to football you can enjoy the game from the stands but you with never know what it's truly like until you get in the game!

My wife and I are totally committed to small Group ministry – We are committed to be a family on mission - so much so we just purchased Farm Table to seat ten people  
But there are some myths about Small Groups

Myths about small Groups

- It's a waste of time
- It's not what I want or what I need
- It's awkward

Truth about Small Groups

It's a place where you can make a difference

**1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)**

Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.

Share about the refrigerator – our current small Group Started a skip one account

It's a place where you can grow

**Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)**

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

It's a place where everybody knows your name.

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Share about the impact of Small Group on Joanna and me.

We “in group” can impact more people directly or indirectly for Christ than any other way including what we do on Sunday morning.

Questions:

How many of you plan to be alive at least another nine years?

How many people do you plan to influence people for Christ over the next nine years?

What’s your plan to impact people in there relationship with God in Christ over the next nine year?

Until you come up plan consider this plan

Get in a community group and allow God to do in you and through you, and at the end of a year start another group, you could influence over 640 people for Christ in the next nine years.