

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – June 12- 17
Doing Life Together – I Love my Church Pt. 2

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 15:9

OBSERVATION: When Jesus calls his disciples he invites them to walk with him, to BE with him. In John 15 Jesus talks about abiding (or remaining, or being with) with the Father, it's only when we abide that we are fruitful. This is the first relationship to cultivate –our walk with God. All our activities and efforts will be fruitless unless we get this right. The UP dimension is about growing this relationship through: worship, teaching, ministry etc. BUT if this is the only dimension our faith is simply an individual spiritual pursuit!

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 15:12

OBSERVATION: “My command is this: love each other as I have loved you”. This is a real challenge, Jesus is calling us to lay down our lives for our brothers & sisters. To put their needs first, to live in humility, patience, bearing with one another in love. This is building community, investing in each other's lives, belonging to one another. BUT if these are the only 2 dimensions its like a balloon plugged in a water supply – it will eventually burst or we simply become a nice, lovely but closed community... there must be an out flow!

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Micah 6:8

OBSERVATION: In this passage, again we see these 3 dimensions at work. OUT – act justly – God's people relating to others, IN – love mercy – relating to the community, and UP – relationship with God. This relationship with God is described as walking with. This is a great picture – walking is very different from a sprint, and walking with adds another element. Let's look at three areas of walking with.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Luke 6:13-16

OBSERVATION: In these verses, Jesus has spent the night with his Father, and now he gathers his disciples around him, there might have been more than 100. Out of this larger group he chooses by name 12 to be his apostles. One of them Simon, he gives another name – Peter. Jesus knew his disciples, their character, gifts, and personality. How do did he do this? He spent time with them, sharing.

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 16:18

OBSERVATION: After choosing the 12 apostles, Jesus immediately engages them in mission. He goes with them to the crowds, to teach and to heal those who are in need. In mission Proclamation and Power go hand in hand. This is the OUT dimension, being used by God to make a difference in the world.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Luke 6:12-20

OBSERVATION: In this reading we see the balance of 3 key relationship dimensions in Jesus ministry. UP – Jesus spent the whole night in prayer with his Father IN – After the night, Jesus gathers his followers together and chooses 12 of them – by name – to be his apostles. He knew them well! OUT – Jesus then, with his followers begins to minister to the sick, needy, and oppressed – not his disciples but others.