

BELONGING

JESUS | BAPTISM | MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

BELONGING TO CENTRAL

BELONGING is a sermon series happening the 5 Sundays in January, focusing on the gospel, baptism, and the church.

Opportunity to be baptized and to become a ministry partner (known as membership in some contexts) on Sunday, February 7th exists for those desiring to take that step of faith. The Baptism & Ministry Partnership Application form is available online and at our Welcome Centres.

BELONGING is about belonging to Jesus (responding to the gospel), belonging with Jesus in baptism, and belonging to Christ's body, the church. We will focus on the centre of our faith and the individual and corporate outworking of it.

OPENING COMMENT

Central is God's vehicle, chosen and designed by Him to carry the message of the gospel to the world. If you call Central home, you participate in this mission. What we understand and believe about the church is critically important because it is such a significant part of God's plan to demonstrate His love for the world. The church is God's plan A ... and there is no Plan B! ***How do you see yourself participating together with others at Central, to carry out the gospel message to Chilliwack, Agassiz and the world?***

Question: What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20

"18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe



all that I have commanded you. And behold, *I am with you always*, to the end of the age.”

PART I: WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES

“We exist to be authentic followers of Jesus, leading others to follow Him”

1. What does it mean or look like to “Make Disciples”?
2. When you think of the words “*learner, follower and reproducing*” in relation to making disciples, where do you see yourself?
3. How are disciples of Jesus called to “Go”? Some people go across the world, others go across the street, many just go across the room taking time with others to point them to Jesus. How easy is it for you to move your conversations from the everyday to sharing the Gospel message?
4. Share some ways, that together as Central, you see us “Going” into the world?
5. We teach at Central because Jesus commanded us to teach. This teaching is not simply for learning or education’s sake alone, but so that we can observe Jesus’ teaching as a way of life, and to grow in the knowledge that leads to Christlikeness leading others to do the same. Discuss examples of this that you have seen at Central. Could you explain Central’s vision to lead others to follow Jesus and be authentic followers of Him?

PART II: WE CONTRIBUTE TO DISCIPLE MAKING

“Gathering, Serving, Giving, Leading and Following”

1. Take time to read together **Acts 2:42-47** & also last week’s passage **Hebrews 10:24-25**: Review what these passages teach us about “*Gathering, Serving, Giving, Leading and Following*”.
2. Last week you discussed what has motivated you **not to** attend regularly and commit deeply with your church family. This week discuss what has motivated you **to attend** more regularly and commit on a deeper level with your church family? What seems to motivate others you know **to attend** regularly and commit deeply?
3. Central has a high level of volunteer participation, with servant-hearted people facilitating disciple-making ministry.

Take a significant amount of time to recognize and identify the areas of involvement that the people in your group are engaged in.

Take time to pray for each person and the area of ministry in which they serve. Have them share their challenges, their joys, and how they have grown as a follower of Jesus as they have given themselves to His ministry, Pray for them and give God the glory for His faithfulness and their commitment to His Church.



CLOSING COMMENT

Conclude your discussion by brainstorming some new ideas of how and where, as a group or as individuals, you could go beyond your own needs to contribute to “making disciples” and “disciple making” at Central.

Take time to field any questions regarding the Ministry Partner Reaffirmation document.

SHARE & PRAY

- Pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit at Central and in the Churches of Chilliwack.
- What has God put on your heart to pray for Central Community Church? Take time to share and pray for those items.
- Pray for gospel-advance in Chilliwack, Agassiz, and globally this year (Matt 9:37).
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

