

FWYAM + FWCM

2019

THREE VALUES

a three part study

First Woodway Baptist Church

DEVOTE

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

John 14:6-7

WHAT WE VALUE

What do we mean when we say devote? We don't mean that we just really like the way of Jesus, or that he is a big part of our lives. We believe that Jesus isn't just a recommended way, a helpful truth, or great detour for life. The scripture shows us He is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. Devotion means to be earnest towards something or to persevere in something. We are devoted to letting Jesus be our entire lives. We are committed to the belief that without Jesus and His presence in our lives we are nothing.

Jesus or nothing.

WHY WE VALUE

Why have we chosen this to be a value? The short answer is that Jesus is foundational to all of life. However, another reason we wanted to emphasize devotion is because of the state of devotion today in culture at large. The church has become filled with half-hearted followers who believe that they must do just enough. We believe the next generation of leaders needs to abandon this mentality. Here we aren't concerned with doing enough, because Jesus was enough. Instead, we are totally bought into the idea that where Jesus is there is life. We want uncalculating devotion. When we see Jesus - when we hear Jesus - when we talk about Jesus - we want to explode with a fervor of devotion that isn't regulated by the presumption of our surrounding culture. Let's stop throwing around words like radical, and actually become the radical Christ followers we've been called to be.

HOW WE VALUE

How do we live out this value? In so many ways. The easiest way to say it is - Jesus is our entire life. We reject the belief that Jesus can or should be compartmentalized. Our life with Jesus is not something that we manage on the side - again, it is our life. Practically this plays out with us being committed to a community of believers that are seeking Jesus together. We join D-Groups (discipleship groups). We celebrate with one another, challenge one another, and love one another as we pursue Jesus. We feast upon scripture. We practice the spiritual disciplines. Our worship is opportunity not obligation.

Anywhere that Jesus is - is the place

we want to be.

DEVOTE

for group discussion

What is the significance of the claim that Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE?

In your own words, what does a life devoted to Jesus look like?

Read Matthew 26:6-13. What does this teach you about devotion?

What tempts you to limit your devotion?

What habits/practices/rituals have you seen to keep devotion alive and thriving?

How can this community encourage and spur one another on to a life devoted to Jesus?

Recommended Practice: As a group decide on one thing you want to do this week - purely out of delight and devotion to Jesus.

(Ex. Host an impromptu worship night. Maybe throw a "feast of celebration"- inviting your surrounding community. Plan a prayer meeting.

Share scripture with someone at least once every day...etc.)

WELCOME

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' **40** "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:37-40

WHAT WE VALUE

We want to welcome guests, strangers, and everyone the way that we would welcome Jesus Christ. There is a running idea in the teaching of Jesus that the way we treat others is the way we treat Jesus. We learn how to welcome/love people by examining the way that God welcomed /loved us. This being the case, there will never be a person who comes into DEVO, community groups, or Sunday morning that isn't worthy of our love and welcome. Throughout our day we seek to welcome and love everyone we encounter - whether it be a colleague, a classmate, a homeless person, a barista... we welcome and love everyone as if Christ Himself had arrived.

WHY WE VALUE

Why have we chosen this value? Honestly, because Jesus said we should value others. In an even deeper sense, we believe that our world is more fragmented, isolated and divided than ever. Today there are so many people wandering in and out of community looking for a place to experience the love of God. We want to play our part in celebrating what God has done and is doing by throwing our arms open wide and welcoming in the stranger. We weren't supposed to be part of the family of God, but because of Jesus we now are! This community should live out that truth of the Gospel - the outcast becoming family. We want First Woodway to be a place where the stranger arrives only to find themselves a place at the family table.

HOW WE VALUE

How do we live out this value? It happens everyday in every place with every person we encounter. Huge claim? We know, but that is the hope we want to live into. Whenever someone stumbles into a DEVO, community group or Sunday morning we want to go out of our way to make them feel welcomed. They are an honored guest, so we want to introduce them to everybody. We ask if we can grab lunch with them, so we can get to know them better. We celebrate the ways that God has gifted them, because our community is better off because of it. We listen to their needs, and rally the community to respond. We want them to know that God has purpose for them, and we are glad they've found their way to our family.

WELCOME

for group discussion

Read Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 13:1-2.
What does this teach us about welcoming
others?

In your own words, what does it look like to welcome others as Christ Himself?

Share a moment that you felt deeply loved and welcomed. Explain why.

Share a verse that illustrates the way God has welcomed us.

Why is the value of welcome so important in today's culture?

What commitments can this community make to welcoming guests?

Recommended Practice: As a group organize a get together and invite friends in need of community. Practice the welcome and hospitality that you want to have for the rest of the year. Remember welcome doesn't end when the event does - it's ongoing.

(Ex. Meet up for dinner. Go get coffee. Board game night. See a movie. Grill out at Cameron Park. A night at the hippodrome. Day trip to Austin! Etc.)

SEEK

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent

Luke 15:1-7

WHAT WE VALUE

We want to seek those that are lost and wandering in the way that God seeks us. To explain what it means to seek the lost the way God seeks us - is really beyond our capacity. At every turn the message of the gospel reaffirms that God sought us, God came near, God walked among us, God sacrificed for us - there wasn't a single barrier or limit He allowed to keep us from His presence. He was relentless in His pursuit of us. In the overflow of the love we've received, we want to be a part of that work now.

Therefore, we actively seek those that don't know Jesus!

WHY WE VALUE

Why have we chosen this value? In Jesus, we have received everything we could ever have desired. We have found the true home of humanity in the house of God, so we want to bring in the lost and wandering. This isn't about getting other people to join a club - it's about responding to the defining point of all reality: Jesus died, rose again, so we may have new life. We want everyone to have new life that we've received through the grace of Jesus Christ.

HOW WE VALUE

How do we live out this value? It happens through the lives we live, the way we devote, the way we welcome, but it also happens through our direct intentions. Most mornings we spend praying for those in our lives that don't know Jesus - longing for opportunities to share in joy what God has done for them. We invite them to community group, DEVO, Sunday morning and other events. We develop relationships with non-believers - not as a personal pious project - we do so because we believe God loves them deeply, so we do as well. Sometimes, God might lead us to share the gospel with someone we've never met. Either way, we're convinced that God longs to have relationship with everyone we meet.

Therefore, we never hesitate to share the good news.

Seek

for group discussion

Read Luke 15:1-7. What do we learn about God's pursuit of us?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Why is this important to keep at the forefront of our minds?

Why do you sometimes hesitate to share the good news?

Share one of the most loving ways to seek the lost that you've seen.

Key question we must all answer before we seek:
Why is it good news?

How will this community organize itself around the value of seeking the lost?

Recommended Practice: There are so many that come to mind. No matter what you do - put seeking the lost into practice this week.

(Ex. Get together to pray for the lost. Personally pray for one person everyday this week. Spend an hour prayer walking as a group - asking God for divine appointments. Etc.)

THREE VALUES

DEVOTE

We seek to lead lives devoted to knowing, being with, and worshipping Jesus Christ.

John 14:6

WELCOME

We seek to welcome guests the way we would welcome Christ himself.

Matthew 25:31-46

SEEK

We seek in love those that are lost and wandering in the way God seeks us.

Luke 15:1-7