



Better Together, Week 3 February 16 & 17

Speaker: Joshua Symonette

Scripture: Acts 15: 1-2, 5-12.

Sermon Overview

The Gospel ("good news") is for everyone and this weekend, Pastor Joshua challenged us to be better together despite our differences.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. Share about a relationship that is currently making you better?
2. What did God reveal to you about your relationships this week?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. What makes it difficult to be in relationship with those different from us? What differences are most challenging?
2. What experiences do you have with those you advocate for? What relationships have you developed with them?
3. How do you seek unity in your relationships even with different education, experiences, and exposure?
4. What is the difference between genuine relationship versus information gathering?
5. How can you step into discomfort and cross barriers to engage those with differences that hard to see beyond?

Better Together: Reflecting on Differences

This weekend, Pastor Joshua discussed many types of differences that can make it challenging to engage others in relationship. He also shared how the Gospel and way of Jesus is about imitating His ways as opposed to making others assimilate to our way. Either on your own or within your group, reflect on the questions and actions steps below:

- 1. Engage a difference:** Who is one person you can engage with this week that you normally wouldn't engage with? How could it challenge and grow you?
- 2. Reflection:** Reflect on the following statement: "Theological agreement isn't necessary for social unity". What comes to mind when you hear this statement? Take a few minutes to listen what God might be speaking to you.
- 3. Be on your job:** Pastor Joshua challenged us this weekend "to be on our job" and live reconciled to Christ, even despite our differences. What's a way you can celebrate and encourage a difference, bringing more unity in relationship?
- 4. Comfort Crushing:** Is there an element of comfort or safety you currently have or pursuing that makes it more difficult to be in relationship with those who have differences? (thought, opinion, belief) How can comfort be a barrier?
- 5. Be an Advocate:** What does it mean to advocate for someone or something? How did Paul, Peter, and Barnabas do that and how can you do the same?