

2. Move toward Others

DISCUSS

While waiting to begin, if you'd like to please share with your neighbour an example another Christian has really cared for you- what did that look like?

This term: “GROWING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS...”

Ephesians 3:10, 4:11-13 - The church:

(i) proclaims the gospel (words) and... (ii) displays the gospel (relationships)

A command. A model. An advert

John 13:34-35, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

But...

Last week: with all humility...

This week: so obvious and yet so difficult: move toward others

Taking the initiative. Being proactive. Taking the first step.

Our perfect model: our Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus

Discuss: How does God / Jesus take the initiative? Can you think of examples from the Bible where He move toward others?

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Discuss: why might we be reluctant to move toward others?

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Remember: loving others is often costly

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things”

Practical suggestions

- 1) **Physically move toward others**
- 2) **Verbally move towards others**
- 3) **... and actually listen**
- 4) **When you don't want to: move toward others**

Q: what would it look like for you to "move toward others"?

... go and practice.