

sermon study guide

Sermon Summary (see next page for discussion questions)

Global Ministries Weekend: For the City

October 9/10, 2021

Steve Griffin/Katherine Milum

People who feel like outsiders and cannot connect with anyone – NEED to have a community where they feel they **belong**. We were created to live in community – to belong in families who love, support and uphold each other. There are thousands of emotionally, physically and spiritually starving people in our city – and COVID has resulted in even more loneliness. Refugees (they had no choice in leaving their countries), immigrants (are beginning from scratch), those who have lost jobs, are poverty-stricken, ill or lonely. Changes in circumstances often create spaces in lives which could be an opportunity towards finding God and belonging to His Family.

As we focus on what it means to be FOR THE CITY, we could consider 4 points: **Place, Prayer, People** and **Pivot**. Through our Compassionate Ministries and New Canadian Friendship Centre, we reach out to Calgarians, from varying backgrounds, in our neighborhoods and on the streets. The consolidated “Centre for the City” will be a **Place** where we are able to help people practically, as well as talk to them about Jesus, offering hope, refuge and peace in His name.

Pastor Ashwin, last week, spoke about a city on a hill which cannot be hidden (Matthew 5:14), and shines so that others come to God and give Him the glory – this is achieved through **Prayer**. The power of prayer moves a city from something hidden to something heart transforming, and we are a praying Church. Our new “Centre for the City”, consolidating these two ministries will be our light on a hill.

Prayer leads us to **People** – the people who need a place where they can ‘belong’, and those whom God puts in our path. Psalm 107:4-7 says that some wandered in the wilderness, with no direction or a dwelling place, but God rescued them and led them to a place of safety and abundance, a suitable city to dwell in. We will reach out to everyone in need; however, because Jesus told His disciples to minister particularly to those who are searching and not hostile to the Gospel, it is appropriate that we pray that God will direct our paths to the particular people He desires us to bring to Him.

Pivot is a word that, in this context, could mean that we change direction or our outlook, and begin doing things differently. Pastor Griffin recently wrote in a book: **You can only walk with someone once you understand who they are and where they come from**. To be able to walk with the people God leads us to, we need to pivot or adjust our paradigms as we get to know them, so that we are better able to empathize and communicate with them.

We can impact people in our city in a multitude of ways by: welcoming, befriending and *walking* with the people God leads us to, and showing them the way to Him through our actions, deeds and ministry. Actions often speak louder than words. Jesus was compassionate towards everyone He saw, touched, healed and loved, and gave them the life-changing opportunity to be welcomed and embraced by the Father. How would God want us to be good neighbors, show compassion, and be for our city?

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Discussion Questions

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IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt uprooted. How did others welcome and accept you into their lives in that time? What were you most grateful for?
2. What makes it easier for you to smile and greet those you encounter while going through your day?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Psalm 107:4-9; Jeremiah 29:7

3. What do these verses tell us about our world? About our God, His heart and actions toward people? What should our response be?

Read Romans 12:13

4. What does 'hospitality' mean to you? Name one or two small actions of hospitality that you can take to show a stranger that they are welcomed and belong.

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. "You can only walk with someone once you understand who they are and where they come from." Who might God be highlighting as a person of peace in your life right now? What will it look like to understand who they are and where they come from?
6. This Global Ministry Weekend was all about being "4 the City". Being 4 the City means:
 - Being 4 the people who have a place and need for belonging
 - Praying 4 the city
 - Believing God to lead me to my people
 - Learning how to pivot to God's leading (see question 5 above)

Which of these 4 do you sense God prompting you to grow in / take action on? What might that look like?

THE WORD (NIV)

Psalm 107:4-9

4 Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
5 They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
6 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
7 He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.
8 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing
love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
9 for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

Jeremiah 29:7

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Romans 12:13

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

As we welcome others to be our neighbours, what can we do to become their neighbours? Visit the links below for ideas and ways to connect.

Learn more about NCFC

<http://www.ncfcentre.com/>

Explore Ways to be 4 The City

<https://www.cschurch.ca/global/>

Learn about Centre For the City

<https://www.cschurch.ca/centre>



centre street church
cschurch.ca