Message: I Love My Church September 21, 2014

Why?

God created the church and said it would prevail.

Real Life Vision

Help people find their real self by:

- Knowing Christ, Growing together in Him.
- Experiencing
- Belonging
- Growing
- Inviting
- Serving
- Celebrating

Do you want to be an <u>owner</u> or an <u>attender</u>?

Send your "I Love RL" story to office@seekreallife.com

Food for thought

For the week of September 21, 2014

Review the following scriptures as you reflect over the purposes of Real Life Church:

Experiencing

Read Psalms 34:1-22 **Key verse:** "I will praise the LORD at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are discouraged take heart." (NLT) **Thought:** Practice thanking God, this is worship.

Read Mark 12:28-31 **Key verse**: "³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." (Message)

Thought: God's plan is simple, give Him all of you!

Belonging

Read Romans 12:9-16 **Key verse:** "9Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. ¹⁰Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle." (Message)

Thought: Real friendships are part of God's plan.

Read John 15:1-16 **Key Verse:** "4Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me." (Message)

Thought: A real sense of belonging begins with God.

Growing

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (Message) **Key verse:** "7 ... Talk about them (God's commandments) wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night!"

Thought: Make growing in God a part of your everyday life.

Read Philippians 3:12-21 (NLT) **Key verse:** "17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example."

Thought: We need to be in small groups (Life Groups) together so we can learn from each other.

Inviting

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NLT) **Key verse:** "9Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me." **Thought:** God works through your weakness. You can reach people with the real you.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-18 (NCV) **Key verse:** "9The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives."

Thought: God doesn't only wait for you, but for the people you are intended to reach.

Serving

Read Ephesians 2:1-10 (Message) **Key Verse:** "10No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

Thought: You where created to join God in his work. You are part of His Heavenly team.

Read 1Timothy 1:11-17 (NIV) **Key Verse:** "12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service."

Thought: God has called you and strengthened you for His service.

Celebrating

Read Psalm 145 **Key Verse:** "6-7 Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness; they will sing with joy about your righteousness."

Thought: Give voice to what God is doing in your Life.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV) **Key Verse**: "18Therefore encourage each other with these words."

Thought: Your voice is your best tool for encouragement.

Our Core Values

Experiencing

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Romans 12:1

Belonging

...We are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as part of his body. Romans 12:4-5

Growing

Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything – and I do mean everything – connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life – a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces His character in you. Ephesians 4:21-24

Inviting

...what matters most to me is to finish what God started: the job the Master Jesus gave me of letting everyone I meet know all about this incredibly extravagant generosity of God. Acts 20:24

Serving

He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. Ephesians 2:10

Celebrating

Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him! Philippians 4:4