

**Courageous Disciple Makers: 2 of 5**  
**“Connecting In Relationships”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**January 8, 2023**

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named **Matthew** sitting at the tax collector's booth. **"Follow me,"** he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the **healthy** who need a doctor, but the **sick**. But go and learn what this means: **'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'** For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." **Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)**

**2023 Vision: To courageously become disciple makers** – who worship Jesus, connect in community, grow in faith, serve the church, and share the message of grace & mercy in Jesus.

Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you." **Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)**

**We courageously become disciple makers when we:**

- ❖ **Worship Jesus** In Response To God's Grace And Mercy.
- ❖ **Connect in Community** with Grace Filled Relationships.

**We Connect With Grace Filled Relationships By:**

**1. Creating A Welcoming Atmosphere**

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you **live in complete harmony** with each other, as is fitting for **followers of Christ Jesus**. Then all of you can join together with **one voice**, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you** so that God will be given glory. Remember that Christ came as a **servant** to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises He made to their ancestors. He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his **mercies** to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

"For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name."

**Romans 15:5-9 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Going Beyond The Superficial To Deeper Relationships

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the **hope** we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

**Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT2)**

Every time I think of you, **I give thanks** to my God. Whenever I pray, **I make my requests for all of you with joy**, for you have been my **partners** in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

**Philippians 1:3-6 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Joining A Local Church

So now you Gentiles are **no longer strangers and foreigners**. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are **members of God's family**. **Together, we are His house**, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And **the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself**. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:19-22 (NLT2)**

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

**Acts 2:42 (NLT2)**

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

**Acts 2:46-47 (NLT2)**

➤ How can I connect in relationships better?

I will connect by:

[ ] Introducing myself and praying for someone

[ ] Attending the Small Group Meeting & Luncheon January 15, 12:30

[ ] Accepting Jesus as my Savior and Lord for the first time

Prayer: *"Lord, help me be a courageous disciple maker."*

**Courageous Disciple Makers: 2 of 5**  
**“Connecting In Relationships”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**January 8, 2023**



**2023 Vision: To courageously become disciple makers** – who worship Jesus, connect in community, grow in faith, serve the church, and share the message of grace & mercy in Jesus.

**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honors your group’s time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

➤ What thoughts from this week’s message encourages me to live a life for Jesus?

**We courageously become disciple makers when we:**

- ❖ **Worship Jesus** In Response To God’s Grace And Mercy.
- ❖ **Connect in Community** with Grace Filled Relationships.

**Icebreaker:** What has been your experience of going to a new church?  
How did you feel? Welcomed? Invisible? Accepted? Other: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Read Matthew 9:9-13**

Why would Matthew be a strange choice for a disciple?

What was the Pharisees problem with the party?

What is Jesus teaching here?

**We Connect With Grace Filled Relationships By:**

**1. Creating A Welcoming Atmosphere**

**Read Romans 15:5-9**

What does it mean to live in harmony rather than unison with each other?

How should we treat each other? Vs. 7

How did Jesus come as a servant?

## **2. Going Beyond The Superficial To Deeper Relationships**

### **Read Hebrews 10:23-25**

Who encourages you in your faith?

Who can you encourage this week?

### **Read Philippians 1:3-6**

What kind of relationship did Paul have with these believers?

Why did he call them “partners”?

## **3. Joining A Local Church**

### **Read Ephesians 2:19-22**

How does a church help you and your family’s faith?

How do we collectively be the church?

### **Read Acts 2:42-47**

What did the first church look like?

How would you describe their relationships?

What area of connecting in relationships do you need to grow in?

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.