

CITY CHURCH DNA DEVOTIONAL – WEEK 4

Day 19 - Team and our church part 1

What does the value of team mean for us as a church?

The Bible says that members of the church are like parts of a body working harmoniously together. Each of us has an equally valuable and meaningful part to play, and we are called to work together for the glory of God.

Take the gift of preaching, for instance. Preachers are an amazing gift to the church—but if the church consisted only of preachers, it would be as dysfunctional as a body that had only a mouth, but no hands or feet!

Writing about how the different parts of the body should work together, Paul says:

*The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour...Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **1 Corinthians 12:21–27.***

For us to live out our vision of helping Bristol believe, we need **everyone** and all their different gifts. In a church that reflects the heart of God, there are no favourites. The body has one head, and his name is Jesus—in everything that we do, through our various gifts, we work to build each other up and ultimately bring Him the glory.

Pray

Thank you, Jesus, for the role that You have given me to play in Your church. Please help me to treat everyone in Your family with respect, knowing that each one of them is valuable and loved by You. Amen.

Day 20 - Team and our church part 2

Today, we'll be asking the question, ***how does the value of team shape our purpose as God's people?***

The church is a reflection of God's Kingdom here on earth, and we have a responsibility to demonstrate the love of Jesus to the communities that He has placed us in. One way we can show Jesus to our communities is by the way we live and work together as a church. We should be distinctive because of the way that we love and support each other. The early church is a great example of this:

*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. **Acts 2:44–46.***

What a great team the early church was! They met together every day, and gave up their possessions for each other. And, as they wholeheartedly loved Jesus and each other, *'the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.'* There was something so attractive about the way they lived, that people couldn't help but be interested.

As we serve each other and serve our communities, we exhibit to the world the lavish and abundant love of Jesus. As we do so, we pray that we would see many added to our number too!

Pray

Father, thank you for the gift of church family. I pray for our church, that You would help us to love each other more radically and wholeheartedly, so we can show the world what Your love looks like. Amen.

Day 21 - Team and the city part 1

In many ways, Bristol is a very individualistic city. Everywhere we look, we see people living out a philosophy of individualism and self-gratification: '*Just do whatever makes you happy*'. But people also have a deep hunger to belong to something bigger and to find purpose as part of a team. They throw themselves into supporting sports teams or being part of their communities. Through all the busyness and activity, they're really looking to fill a hole that can be filled only by Jesus.

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. **John 6:35.***

We each carry a hunger for belonging, purpose and meaning that can be filled only by Jesus, the bread of life. In Him, we find life, satisfaction, and real belonging as part of His family. Pray today that those around you would know Jesus, the bread of life, and never hunger.

Pray

Thank you, Jesus, for the diversity and fun of living in Bristol. We recognise that this city desperately needs You, and we pray for revival in our own day: that people would recognise their need for You, and that You would give them life. Amen.

Day 22 - Team and the city part 2

How does the value of team shape our purpose as a church in this city?

God made us to know Him, to enjoy Him, and to be part of His family. It's why He sent His Son: to seek and save humanity, reconciling people to Himself and to each other.

*The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. **Luke 19:10***

Jesus' heart is to seek and to save the lost—and that includes our neighbours, our colleagues, and our city! He longs to draw people into His family—and He has called us to be part of His team, sharing His message of salvation with the world. Although we are scattered in our various homes, streets and communities across the city and surrounding areas, we are one people with one purpose: to help Bristol believe.

Pray

Thank you Jesus for Your love for this city. Please help us to see the place where we live the way You do, and give us opportunities to invite the people of Bristol into Your family. Amen.

Day 23 - Team and the world part 1

How does the value of team shape our understanding of who we are in relation to the world we live in?

Just before He went to the cross, Jesus said this to His disciples:

*If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **John 15:19***

Jesus says that, as His people, our identity is not in the things of this world: popularity, careers, relationships, sports teams or anything else. Instead, we belong to the Kingdom of God - we're on His team!

As people of the Kingdom, He sends us out to share His message of salvation with the world. We can do that by building relationships with those around us. While Jesus has called His church to be distinct from the world, it doesn't mean that we're removed from it: instead, we are to be a light to the world, showing people who He is.

Pray

Thank you, Father God, that my identity is found only in you, and that you have given me purpose and belonging in your team. Help me to know that more and more each day. Amen.

Day 24 - Team and the world part 2

In our final devotional on the value of team, we're asking the question, ***how does the value of team affect our sense of purpose in the world?***

We are part of a global church: one big family of believers from all tribes and nations, with a shared mission to reach the world for Jesus.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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 28:19-20.***

It's an amazing encouragement to know that City Church isn't on a solo mission to save the world! We are part of a team so much bigger than ourselves—we're working together with brothers and sisters in churches across the nations to see Jesus proclaimed. Praise God for the beauty and diversity of His church!

Pray

Thank you, Lord God, for the beauty and diversity of Your church. Thank you that we are part of a team that spans across the world! Help us to fulfil Your commission, and make disciples of all nations. Amen.