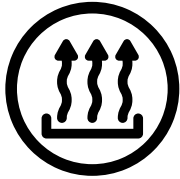




Mission & Values



WARM-UP

Find a gif on your phone that describes your current mood. Share with the group and explain. (Either text your group message the gif or show people on your phone)

Our Values

Not Earned

Not Threatened

Not Alone

Not About Us

Not... Not Fun

Read out loud as a group

Value #5 - Not...Not Fun:

We take Jesus seriously, not ourselves, because humor and play belong wherever the Spirit is present.



What do you like best about this value?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How do you see this value at Hope?

Possible Answers: we have groups for people of all ages from babies to retirement, solid volunteer culture where members volunteer for others, planting churches often without fear of losing numbers ourselves, leaving the comfortable known small group to plant a new one, sending money outside of Hope to partner organizations to be a blessing to the city, etc.



How do you see yourself engaging with this value at Hope or in life?

Possible Answers: Will vary. Hope- engaging in the fun events we have, taking the bible seriously while taking yourself not so seriously, bringing laughter and jokes, etc. Life- not letting setbacks knock you down, finding humor in everyday life, etc.

Read out loud as a group

“To gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair, for feasting and all enjoyments gracefully taken are, at their heart, acts of war.

In celebrating this feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word.

But the joy of fellowship, and the welcome and comfort of friends new and old, and the celebration of these blessings of good and drink and conversation and laughter are the true evidences of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great glad joy that is to come and that will be unending.

So let our feast this day be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ,

Let it be to us now a delight, and a glad foretaste of his eternal kingdom.”

- An excerpt from a liturgy entitled “Feasting with Friends” in **Every Moment Holy** by Douglas McKelvey



What stands out to you about this liturgy?

Possible Answers: Will vary.



What makes engaging in fun or joy difficult?

Possible Answers: Sometimes it feels less important than other things (lies), emotions, hard situations, fear of judgment from others, etc.

Read out loud as a group

PSALM 100:1-5 (NIV)

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Read out loud as a group

ROMANS 12:3 (NIV)

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Read out loud as a group

ACTS 4:13 (NIV)

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Read out loud as a group

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



What stands out to you in these verses?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How do you see the value of “Not...Not Fun” in these verses?

Possible Answers: Psalm- Our joy is for and from God who created us and loves us and gave us the world to enjoy. Acts- the disciples were ordinary, just like us! They probably also laughed and joked. Romans- because of Christ, we don't have fear to look at ourselves with sober judgement. Philippians- a call to rejoice in all circumstances.



What's the difference between a shallow joy that avoids pain and a gospel-shaped joy that can hold it? How might joy itself be an act of faith in seasons that feel heavy or unresolved?

Possible Answers: Surface/shallow joy ignores or rushes past suffering. Gospel-shaped joy tells the truth about pain while still trusting that it will not have the final word. In hard seasons, joy can become an act of faith, a way of quietly declaring hope, endurance, and confidence in what Christ has secured, even when circumstances have not yet changed.



In your opinion, what proposed value is strongest in our church today? Weakest? How might we contribute to bolster the weaker value?

Possible Answers: will vary.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What is stopping your joy this week?
- This week, how can you take Jesus seriously but not yourself?
- How can you recognize Jesus as the Author of your joy this week?