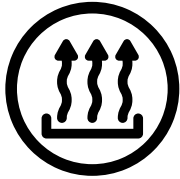




# Mission & Values



## WARM-UP

What was the most fun or most meaningful volunteer experience that you've had?

### Our Values

Not Earned

Not Threatened

Not Alone

**Not About Us**

Not... Not Fun

*Read out loud as a group*

### Value #4 - Not About Us:

We raise and release leaders for future generations because the church exists to give itself away.



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- prioritizing leadership development, there's always some way to support a younger generation (YAM, LDI, Hope on Campus, youth, kids), etc. Our lives- any type of volunteering, formal or informal mentoring/discipleship with others, prioritizing others in appropriate sacrificial ways, etc.*



How do you know when “giving yourself away” is healthy or unhealthy?

*Possible Answers: Sometimes God calls us to give when we have the energy to give and that's good. Sometimes God calls us to give when we don't have the energy to give so we can rely on Him and that's good. Sometimes God calls us to not give but receive when we have the energy to give and that's good. Sometimes God calls us to not give but receive when we don't have the energy to give and that's good. Deciding- with prayer, practice, the question of what is ultimately good for the people we're giving too because God uses the good times and especially the bad times to grow people! Sometimes in our effort to keep people from bad times we can actually be standing in the way of how God wants to grow them.*



The world tells us that everything should be about us and our comfort. How might that hinder us in regards to this value?

*Possible Answers: We might not try new things or do difficult things, avoid hard conversations, avoid pain, avoid unpleasant feelings, hinder our growth, keep us stuck on the immediate needs/comforts versus any future or lasting comforts, keeps us isolated and self focused, etc.*

### Activity:

Split up into 4 groups, one passage of scripture per group. Read and answer the following questions in your groups. After 5-10 minutes come back together and present the highlights to the whole.

### Group 1

#### EPHESIANS 4:11-16 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

*Group 2*

**2 TIMOTHY 2:1-10 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. <sup>3</sup> Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup> Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. <sup>6</sup> The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup> Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

*Group 3*

**DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

<sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:1-8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!



What stands out to you?

*Possible Answers: Answers will vary.*



How do you see the “Not About Us” value in these verses?

*Possible Answers: Ephesians- Christ gave the church all these different types of people to EQUIP them for SERVICE in order to build up His Church. Timothy- teachings are entrusted to reliable people that will go and teach others. Deuteronomy- teaching the things of the Lord to your children. Philippians- practices in humility of viewing others above yourself, self-sacrificial.*



In these verses, the example of this value and the source of this value is Christ. What are ways we can remind ourselves and each other of Christ and His servant mindset?

*Possible Answers: Pray on it, meditate on it, write it down, vocally remind each other, make art with it so you see it all the time, serve often, ask others how you can serve them, turn our grumbling to the Lord when we're tired, speak up when we see friends slipping away from this, etc.*



What fears or assumptions make it hard to believe that giving ourselves away could actually lead to joy and growth?

*Possible Answers: the world often tells us to protect our energy and OUR joy, work for our own comfort and happiness but the gospel shows us that serving, giving, and sharing could bring as much or even MORE joy than making life about ourselves. The gospel shifts our focus from ourselves to something greater. We GET to serve others because Christ served us.*

## DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- In what ways are you “giving yourself away”?
- To do this sustainably, it takes regular practice in rest. What is restful for you?
- What role are you equipped for in the body of Christ?