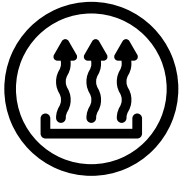




Mission & Values



WARM-UP

What is your top love language? (gifts, acts of service, physical touch, quality time, words of affirmation)

Our Values

Not Earned Not Threatened **Not Alone** Not About Us Not... Not Fun

Read out loud as a group

Value #3 - Not Alone:

We grow together because God designed the Christian life to be shared.



What do you like best about this value?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



How do you see this value at Hope?

Possible Answers: our middle name (community), emphasis on small groups, wide variety of groups available for people in every season and age, classes- learning in community, restoring hope- fighting sin and processing emotions in community, extending hands towards hurting people, etc.



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

Possible Answers: Will vary. Hope- engaging with community in small groups, men's and women's ministry, retreats, classes, welcoming the newcomer, etc. Our lives- practicing hospitality and seeking out those who feel like outsiders, initiating coffee dates, extending invites, etc.



What makes this value hard? What makes it easy?

Possible Answers: hard- all sinful people, conflict, different priorities, it takes a willingness to be vulnerable and accept help, it takes a sacrificialness to help others, not enough time, busy schedules, etc. Easy- fun, we were literally designed to be in community, aspects of church are created to be done with others, etc.

Read out loud as a group

HEBREWS 10:24-25 (NIV)

²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Read out loud as a group

GALATIANS 6:2 (NIV)

² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Read out loud as a group

ACTS 2:42-47 (NIV)

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Read out loud as a group

ROMANS 12:15 (NIV)

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Read out loud as a group

JOHN 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."



Where do you see the value of “Not Alone” in these verses?

Possible Answers: Hebrews- in encouraging and strengthening one another, gathering often. Galatians- literally helping each other with our burdens or struggles. Acts- learning, eating, praying, communion, sharing, meeting, and including others all together as a community! Romans- empathizing with each other. John- love each other!



It is not bad to need some time to recharge alone. That is a pretty universal need! How do you discern the difference between taking some time to be alone and purposefully isolating yourself because it's easier and less scary?

Possible Answers: Pausing to pray or think through personal motivations, if fear or sin is keeping you from engaging in community that could be a sign of isolation versus recuperation. Is the time doing what you wanted it to do? Sometimes it might mean we could bring things to close friends instead of by ourselves.



What can we do to keep an eye out for people who are alone in our lives? At Hope?

Possible Answers: Be willing to strike up a conversation with someone who looks like there alone, be intentional with new coworkers or parents of your kid's friend. Invite new people to coffee or meals or parties you are already hosting. Go meet someone sitting alone at church or alone in the community room, welcome new people into small groups, mens and womens groups, trips, etc. Plant a new small group to help connect new people at Hope.



Is it hard or easy for you to accept help? Why?

Possible Answers: Hard- it makes us feel weak or deficient in some way, it makes us feel like we have to return the favor, makes us feel hard to love or needy, etc. Easy- it points us to the greater help we get from Christ, reminds us that we all need help, reminds us to be thankful for the community we have, gives us empathy to help others, etc.



The enemy wants to keep us isolated and alone because it's easier for us to believe lies. Looking at your life, what times or circumstances is it easiest for you to believe lies and how might you invite others into those spaces/times?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary. Easiest in times of high emotion or places where we feel like we're lacking or deficient. Could be in dating, appearance, around certain repetitive sins or habits, work idols, etc. Ask a close friend to check in on you, call people when you notice lies creeping in, read your bible to see what God says about you, tell your small group, ask for prayer, etc.

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What is your response to being alone? Good and bad.
- What are things that keep you isolated?
- What is one step you can take this week to move towards community?