

# Community Part 1

## *Values and Roots*

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As there has been demand for a list of all our values and the Scripture Doug selected to accompany them on September 9, we've included everything seen on the slides. The Scripture references listed here are not the *only* foundation for our values, but a sampling from the holistic Biblical expression of each value. *Community Roots* (from Luke Knight) follow.

### **A Community Value**

- **We value Community**

We recognize that God has designed us to be together. At Living Waters we care for one another, we honor one another, we are encouragers, we are challengers, and we are there for each other. We love each other. While we have great community whenever we gather as a large group, we see deeper community happening in smaller groups where we deliberately engage one another in meaningful relationship. Our desire is to see everyone cared for and caring for others.

(Romans 12:4-5, Romans 12: 9-10)

- **We value Authenticity**

We desire to be the real thing: "Followers of Jesus who not only say what we do but do what we say." We are not interested in masks or any form of hypocrisy. Authenticity means we are honest with one another, about how we are doing and how we are feeling even when it's hard.

(James 1: 22, 1 John 1: 7-8)

- **We value Spiritual Formation**

We are a people who journey to be more like Jesus. We respect the notion that we are at different places along the way and celebrate the fact each of us has chosen the same path. Our path is one of experiencing God in His fullness; of learning to be Christ like and applying what we have learned in love. We are a people of prayer. We are a people who follow the ways of the Bible and we understand our spiritual formation is not complete without a disciplined life that includes both. To know Jesus more is to hunger for more. We wish to be a people hungry for spiritual formation.

(Philippians 2: 12b-13, 1 Timothy 4: 7-8)

- **We value Worship**

We are a people who recognize God for who He is and because of that we are naturally drawn to the place of worship. Our worship does not have to fit a particular box and is open to expressions of the Spirit. We desire to be passionate about the adoration of God and the proclamation of who He is in our lives.

(Psalm 150: 1-2)

- **We value the Great Commission**

We are a people who understand the church is not limited by its building or by a street address. The church is us and we are called to reach beyond our walls and impact the lives of those who are far from God who live there. We see the scope of our influence ranges from our backyard to our world. We are passionate about the Gospel that has set us free and we desire to share it.

(Matthew 28:19)

- **We value Generosity**

As Jesus was generous, so too do we wish to be a generous people. Our desire to be known for our generosity so that God may be glorified through us. Generous as we give to His church and the work of God, generous with each other in ways that are surprising and a testimony to our love for one another. Generous with those who are around us and who may decide what Christianity looks like based on our behaviour. We wish to be generous – because Jesus has been generous to us.

(Acts 20: 35b, Luke 6:38)

- **We value Recognizing and Releasing**

Each believer has been given a gift (or gifts) by the Lord to allow them to help build His church, fulfill its vision to reach those far from God, and to help/serve/care for a hurting world – in short to make a difference. We value not only the recognition of these God given gifts but also the releasing of these gifts. When we are empowered and released in the things God has called us to – amazing things can and do happen.

(Romans 12: 6-8)

## **Community Roots**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

### **Biblical Roots:**

- Our roots are in the Bible. We find God-breathed authority, inspiring history, narrative, metaphor, poetry, prophesy, didactic lesson, proverbial sayings, and Good News (Gospel).
- We draw our values, our vision, our purpose, and our direction from Scripture.

- We need a transformative, vibrant relationship with Jesus, the Living Word. We need the living words.
- We need this more than ever.
- The Bible was written over 1600 years, by 40 different people.
- It is the most scrutinized and popular book on the planet.
- As the Bible has rooted the people of God for centuries, it will root us.

#### Our Approach:

- Expository, exegetical, and topical styles.
- We teach in a team, bringing different perspectives and specialties in a effort to best reflect and serve the community.
- We encourage engagement (Podcast and Discussion notes)

May we be rooted in Jesus and his word. May we live in experience, knowing “He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and has filled the hungry soul with what is good” (Psalm 107)