

Pastor Danny talked about how being OUT was awful, but being IN was amazing. Can anyone share about a time when they felt like they were on the outside looking in?

People will often forget what you say, but they will remember how you made them feel. What are some things we can do as a church to help people feel connected?

“Oh, I don’t reject your Christ. I love your Christ. It’s just that so many of you Christians are so unlike your Christ.”
- Gandhi

Do we ever consider that as the local body of Christ, we might be the only Jesus some people ever encounter? How good of a job do we do accurately representing Jesus to the people who walk in our doors?

Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

We should be good at loving one another, but sometimes we stop there and leave others on the outside looking in.

God calls us to be fishers of men, not keepers of the aquarium. What does that mean to you?

Reasons why people walk away from the church:

1. People leave church when they don’t find community.

Acts 2:46 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.

How do we move people out of rows and into circles?

2. People leave church because they don’t feel safe.

Ps. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

How do we make God’s house reflect that part of His character?

3. People leave church when they don’t find something authentic.

Jesus was hard on those who just wanted to look good on the outside.... *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.” Matt 23:27*

How do we balance being transparent and vulnerable without just “airing our dirty laundry”?

4. People leave the church because they feel lonely

What are some things that can make someone feel like they are on the outside?

5. People leave the church when they don’t find Jesus

If Bethel were to really look like Jesus, people wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

What would it look like if we as Bethel would welcome anyone and invite everyone to step into relationship with Jesus?