



## UNITY

### 1. READING 2. KINGDOM TRIBE 3. WHAT TRIBE? 4. TRAVEL IN GROUPS 5. HOLIDAY CLUB

- **TRIBE: a social group made up of many families that share the same language, customs, and beliefs.**
- We have just finished our **Holiday Club** last week and the most amazing thing for me was to see how the leaders came together and formed a team.
- **We got to know people on a deeper level** and there is something so meaningful about that experience that we found hard to put it into words.
- What we experienced was communion.

### 6. ACTS

- Do you know you find the 1<sup>st</sup> Kingdom Tribe in the Bible?
- In Acts chapter 2 you find some characteristics of this 1<sup>st</sup> tribe:
  - **FELLOWSHIP**
  - **COMMUNION**
  - A **DEEP INTIMACY** with one another
  - Basically, they were **FRIENDS!**

**and that was so powerful that it changed the world!**

### 7. GROUP ACTIVITIES [Sport, playing, frying marshmallows on the fire]

- C.S Lewis said: "Is there anything better than a group of friends sitting around a fire"
- It's hard to estimate **HOW DEEPLY IMPACTFUL** it can be to commune with one another.
- We are made for it... we long for it!!

### 8. COMMUNAL CREATURES [slide with horses, cows, and a family]

- If you know **horses**, you will know that they are **communal creatures** - when you separate them, they get **stressed**.
- It's the same with **cows**. If you separate a cow from the others, they want nothing more than to get back to the herd so they can **rest**.
- They can only be peaceful to the degree that they are locked up in their community and we work the same way
- **In our society today** we have tended towards **individualism**:
  - I want to express my individual desires and values, goals and dreams.
- Individualism has some good things to it but **it moves us towards isolation** and for many of us **the anxiety we feel** is because **we don't know the peace and the comfort of being tucked in deeply with a community**.
- **Now you may hear this and think...** a deep longing for Community, for connection, to be known and loved that's not really my deal...I got this far by myself and I don't need anything from anybody... It's about me changing my world... It's about me with my hands on the wheels of power and I'm driving I don't really care about all this connectivity and warm fuzz and stuff I just want to make a difference well...
- Looking at **the life of Jesus Christ**, there is one thing you can say without a doubt: **HE** changed all of human history irreversibly!
- What was his **STRATEGY** to get his philosophy to span the globe over centuries?
  - 12 men and he invested deeply in their lives forming a community.
  - Then they shared that community with others and made disciples and he invested deeply in them!
- **So, it's that communion that allowed for the biggest impact!**
- We are going to go further together than we will alone!

# YOUR VIBE ATTRACTS YOUR TRIBE

NEXT SLIDE

- So, what did they do? – They were devoted to:
  - Teaching
  - Fellowship
  - Communion (The Lord's supper)
  - Prayer
- What happened just before? – PENTECOST. – HOLY SPIRIT
- So, was this the first time the Holy Spirit was part of the story?
- No! It is ancient and rooted deeply in our story.
- In **Genesis** when God is creating the world it says **the SPIRIT OF GOD was hovering over the surface of the water** and then God begins to create
- In **Genesis 2** - the creation of humanity - God formed man out of dust and breathed into his nostrils the **BREATH OF LIFE**.
- The word **breath** is the same word as **Spirit**.
- So, the **God the Spirit** is both created the world and then indwells humanity.
- Before sin came there's a **deep intimacy between man and his God**.
- **Genesis 2** You get a not good - God created everything perfect but pre-fall God sees one thing that's not good: **the man is alone**.
- And some people read that and go: **ALONE... HE'S WITH GOD 24/7 ...IT'S THE PERFECT QUIET TIME!**
- But **GOD IS TRINITY**, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit the Bible says they love each other and that is how you get a **God that is love**.
- **How can God Be Love?** Because **there are three distinct personalities** caring for one another, celebrating one another, and building one another up.
- God at his core is a party and he invites Humanity into that party.
- So, it was not good for man to just be a cul-de-sac of God's grace you're meant to be a channel of it...
- So, God creates the woman and what happens is the two of them celebrate being **united together in relationship** with their God and with each other.
- This is how we're made to be in deep communion with God and deep communion with the other.
- Then the tragedy in Genesis 3 is that when we broke Faith with God it also broke our relationships with each other.
- I mean look at the first family... one child killed the other and you think your family is dysfunctional?
- Sin came and everything fractured!
- All seemed lost, but then the prophets started talking about a time that is coming when the Spirit of God will come again the Spirit will bind us together as a family and link us as a family to God.
- Isaiah says it is the Messiah who will bring the wind back.
- In Acts when the Holy Spirit begins to move again
  - after Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross to move sin out of the way
  - he brought his Spirit back into his people and
  - the Church of Christ was born and
  - the Spirit lit the flame that inspired Peter's first sermon: The Savior Jesus Christ has come to remove our sin reconnect us with God and to fill us with his Spirit!! (Acts 2:14-41)
- So the people were asking: what's going on with you people?
- They're like **IT'S HAPPENING** what we lost in the garden is now coming back to us again!!
- A **deep Union with God** and a **deep Union with one another** and this early Community understood that we are linked to a bigger story.
- We're not just people that happen to join the same club **we are knit together by a Holy God for his purposes**.

## LIFE IS BETTER WITH YOUR TRIBE!

- So how do we stay in unity with each other?
  - [slide with baptism and communion]
  - Baptism – Reading the Bible – Praying – Fasting – Communion – Tell others about Jesus - Marriage and Family.
  - **What do all these things say about us – That we belong to Jesus. – We associate with him.**
  - **What happened at this baptism?** God said: “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matt 3:17  
**Through Jesus God can now say this to us!!!! Galatians 3:26-28**
  - Oh, this is so amazing!! We are now part of that party of God!!! – We are in his family! Part of the tribe!!
  - **We are NOT just part of a social club but we are knit together into a deep community that God created.**
  - Can you see why it should make it a priority?
  - This is something sacred.
  - So, they went through this sacred symbol of baptism which we're going to do in a couple of weeks to say: “I'm associated with this community”, and they would take communion together like we do to show we're associated with this community because of what Jesus Christ did
  - We are meant to live this way!
  - Paul said it this way Ephesians 2:18-22
- <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
- <sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
- **They understood if Christ died for it – I am going to value it.**
  - In Gene Twangy book Generations - Christine Amba says this about her generation Millennials and their waning interest in religion: “We still want relationships and Transcendence (to be a part of something bigger than ourselves) but some of us have tuned to convenient low commitment substitutes for Faith and fellowship such as astrology, the easy spiritualism of yoga and self-care and here's what really worries me, few of these activities are as geared towards building deep relationships and communal support as the religious Traditions Millennials are leaving behind - we know we want it but are we willing to do what it takes to get it.”
  - BUT God gave everything to purchase a family and he says to prioritize that family you were made for - like horses - like cows - you were made to be in a herd and you won't be fully you without your tribe!

## LOVE MY TRIBE!

- The Church of Jesus Christ is literally writing a different story – we are a **COUNTERCULTURE**.
- **That is what changed ancient Rome.** That is part of how the church grew.
- Think about it...How did this little persecuted Club dominate an Empire and then become the prevailing philosophy on the planet?
- Well, it happened because a **COUNTERCULTURE** was formed of people who deeply loved each other and deeply cared and it was a spiritual community that served each other.
- We can teach people all about Jesus individually but when they put their faith in him and they are really going to walk with integrity and peace in their soul **they need help.**
- They need to have a community that can deeply support them because it can be very hard when you feel like you're doing that on your own.
- **What made this early community so strong** is that they needed each other, and they leaned on each other and they supported each other, they were there for one another. – Nothing has changed...we need to do the same.

## THANKFUL FOR MY TRIBE!

- At the last Extra Ordinary Woman we had a lovely speaker who gave a wonderful testimony and afterward someone came out for prayer.
- She came up to me and said: "I have been watching you and I want what you have."
- We prayed and she said: "I long for people to do life together with."
- You can imagine my response!!!
- This is Christianity... I bring my burdens to the Lord, and I'm not shamed, I'm restored and deeply healed.
- This is the beauty of the Tribe!
- You get to know each other, and you build trust.
- We laugh, cry, and learn together.
- Friendship is a common Grace for all of humanity but there's something deeper when you know this is rooted in the Triune God who has knitted us together even though we come from different places and have different experiences and baggage but what happens when we come around each other we understand this is sacred.
- It is rooted in our deep story of scripture, and this is a spiritual thing.
- We are not just going to talk about how our day went but we are also going to talk about what God is doing in our souls we're going to go to deeper places and pray together and as we do that we support and build each other up and we become something that is amazing.
- God will add to our number. when people see real authentic Community, especially in a community-starved society like ours they will be drawn into it.
- What I love about the Community of Jesus is that it does not exclude anyone... the door is always open!
- I don't know if you've ever put your faith in Jesus Christ but that's the entry fee... it's not money, or a signature.
- It is saying if Jesus Christ is forging a family I want to be a part of it!
- If he paid with his Blood to bring me into a relationship with God I accept that free gift and then I'm going to invest in the community he built because I know when I do that it won't end up costing me I'll end up gaining support, gaining love and gaining significance because I am knit together with the greatest of all communities for the greatest of all causes.
- I think God is just beginning his work he wants to do with DBC and our strength will come to the degree that we are deeply knit together by his grace
- I am so thankful for our Tribe!!