



Date: May 29/30, 2010

Teaching Pastor: John Fuller, Senior Pastor

Introduction

Events, fairs, and parades are opportunities to participate in your community. You can volunteer, attend with you family, invite new friends to join you and meet others. Jesus spent time with all members of the community: from Pharisees to tax collectors. In each circumstance, Jesus brought hope to the communities he touched. Even today, God desires to engage with your community, bringing hope and mercy. As you work through the discussion questions consider what it means to participate with God's agenda on your heart.

Discussion

What community events do you most look forward to? Why?

For you, what does community participation look like?

As a group, read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 and discuss what you find most compelling about this passage. Is there a part of this passage that is particularly challenging?

What challenges do you face when engaging with "people of this world?" What challenges do you face when engaging with the people Paul warns against in verse 11? What brings you hope when participating gets tough?

Think about it

In Matthew 9, Jesus says, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." What can you do to begin cultivating a heart of mercy? Who are the "sick" around you? What does it mean for you to participate with God's agenda on your heart?

Do something

Invite your friends who may not attend church to an event in the community.

Volunteer at a community event, and spend time praying for the event before it begins.

Explore volunteer opportunities in your community and commit to helping out one day this week. What did you learn about your community? The people you met?

Memorize Hosea 6:6 this week, and recall it as you interact with people in your community this week. What do you notice about your attitude toward others?