

September 11th, 2016

VIDEO: ONE MATTERS INTRO

1-TITLE SLIDE

1-TITLE SLIDE

INTRODUCTION

Good morning and welcome to Fox Valley Christian Church! We are excited you are here today. How many of you walked in and saw tables and said ... what in the world?

Good ... Today we are doing something a little different, but please know that every decision that we make is made so that we can grow together. So that we can know God better and be better prepared to go and make Him known. Its made so that we can be the Church. And today is no different. So let's get ready for something a little different today.

Last week we said One Matters to God. Everyone matters to God. We often get so focused on what is immediately going on in our lives that we make God too small.

God if I matter:

- Why would I be going through this?
- Why do I hurt?
- Why do I never have any money?
- Why are you not providing for me here?

- Why do they matter to you? They hurt me, they took advantage of me ...

But God is so much bigger than that. To God, everyone matters.

Does this mean that everyone will spend eternity with Him in Heaven? No. But everyone matters to Him and as the Good Shepherd; He pursues us, He brings us back to Him, He comforts us, He heals us ... and He did the ultimate saving, healing, and loving when He came to this Earth and gave Himself as a sacrifice for us. When He took the wrath that we deserve. Why? Why did He do that? Because everyone matters to God.

So what does that mean for our Church? What does that mean when we gather as the body of Christ? If everyone matters to God on a much bigger level, in a much bigger way, how can we live out the mission that He gave us when He said ... then go and feed my sheep.

When He said

- Go strengthen the weak
- Go seek the lost
- Go bring back those that have strayed

How can we, the Church, live knowing that everyone matters?

ONE HOUR MATTERS

The first thing we have to recognize is that One HOUR Matters. This one hour when we come here on Sunday Morning, it matters. It is important. It is a vital part of our lives.

Gathering together as the Church has lost a lot of what it originally was meant to be. This was a time when the Church would gather together and they would do life together as one.

2 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

2 – SCRIPTURE SLIDE

ACTS 2:42

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- They prayed together
- We know they sang hymns together
- They shared meals together
- They learned together
- This was a time of fellowship

FELLOWSHIP

3-TITLE SLIDE

3-TITLE SLIDE

This was a time of fellowship. Sometimes I think that fellowship is missing from the Church. It just is. Where fellowship used to be such an essential part of the Church. We were not just the

body of Christ, but a completely united body in fellowship with each other.

But now ... now this is what a Sunday Morning looks like for a lot of people.

- We get to Church
 - if early, we get our kids checked in and we say hi to our Church Friends or our Church Family. Some we greet with hugs. Then after a little talking we head into Worship Center, the Sanctuary, the Big Room with rows.
 - If just on time, the kids are rushed to class and the hugs are quicker and off to our row.
 - If late, we do everything in hyper speed and sneak to our row. Not to disturb anyone else from what they are doing.
- We Worship
 - We then spend the next hour and 15 mins in our rows, looking forward. Spectating. We sing, we laugh, we might tear up, we may even yawn ... but for the most part we are observing, listening, and trying to digest.
- After Worship
 - If we have time we laugh a little and then rush off to what this busy world has for us
 - Some ... which is awesome ... gather together and meet for lunch, to fellowship. The main reason why

we meet for lunch to fellowship? We didn't get a chance while we were at Church and these are our friends and family.

So ... what we are going to do now is fellowship. I have you here. I have you already separated and at tables, so let's fellowship, let's play a game together. Let's have some fun.

You are going to work together, you are going to laugh together, and some of you will win together ... woohoo! Some of you will lose together ... that might be more fun.

We are going to play TABLE TRIVIA

4 – TABLE TRIVIA VIDEO (7 MINS)

TABLE TRIVIA VIDEO (7 MINS)

5 - TITLE SLIDE

1 – TITLE SLIDE

Fellowship matters and we have the opportunity to come together every week and really fellowship. To laugh with the people around us. To get to know them. To strengthen them and be strengthened by them.

STRENGTHEN THE WEAK

We have the opportunity to not just spectate, but to strengthen the people around us and be strengthened by them ...

That is another reason why this One HOUR Matters. It is an opportunity to strengthen each other. To build each other up. We do this by teaching.

- Teaching adults on Sunday Morning
- Teaching our kids in back ... and let me tell you, they know how to learn and fellowship. We could all use a lesson from them.
- We have several small groups that meet.
- And today we have you seated in little small groups.

Why? Because this One HOUR Matters and we want to take full advantage of it.

One of the greatest ways that you can take advantage of this time we have together every week is by volunteering. One of the greatest ways you can be a part of strengthening the weak is by volunteering.

We have so many volunteer opportunities around here.

- You can greet people as they come in on Sundays
- You can greet people at the coffee shop as they come to get a coffee, water, or something else
- You help serve communion
- You can run the media or sound upstairs
- You volunteer in countless ways in our Children's Ministry (Teach, Lead a Small Group, Assist, Nursery, Preschool, Elementary, Security Desk)
- You can volunteer at our main welcome desk

- You can video tape the sermons, there in fact is a man behind the curtain

We have a lot of volunteers, but we are always in need of more. Why? Because we are not spectators. We are a Church. We are a family. We are working together to strengthen each other, to build up our next generation, to celebrate with each other, and to praise our great God together.

I want to pause here: I want you to take a few minutes, I am going to put some questions up on the screen, and as a table ... I want you to talk through some of these. I want you to engage in these like a little small group. Let's step out of spectating and let's start participating.

6 - DISCUSSION QUESTION VIDEO (6-7 MINS)

DISCUSSION QUESTION VIDEO (6-7 MINS)

- If you currently volunteer at FVCC, where do you currently volunteer and what do you love about it?
- If you do not currently volunteer, where do you think would be a good fit for you? What has stopped you from doing that?

7 - TITLE SLIDE

3 - TITLE SLIDE

Volunteering is a crazy thing. I was talking to someone a few weeks ago who is beginning to volunteer back in our Children's Ministry for their first time ... and I could tell that this person

was a little nervous. Why? Because anybody in their right mind would be a little nervous. There is this natural feeling of “oh no. I’m not ready and they are throwing me to the wolves.”

But as I was talking, I simply said ... this is going to be the best thing you ever do. And I 100% mean that.

I was asked and asked and asked to volunteer in Student Ministry when I was college aged (I did not originally go to school for ministry. I went for business.) I kept saying no I can’t volunteer.

Why? Because what could they possibly learn from me. I am still learning. I was still so young. I was still so ignorant in the Bible and in God. What right did I have volunteering.

Then, the Church went through a split and I got a phone call. They said “we have no one else, will you consider leading the Student Ministry Small Group.” I said, “sure” ... but I was completely terrified.

After the first night of small group ... I left that house a whole new person. I called Jen and I was on fire. I called my dad and I was on fire. It literally changed my life.

Do I think that I through my years serving in that role strengthened the weak? Absolutely.

Do I think that I was strengthened? More than I could ever put words to. Best decision of my life.

So many things keep us from volunteering, but let me tell you ... when you give that one hour back to God and you give your everything ... life changer. We can strengthen the weak and be strengthened.

This One HOUR Matters.

CELEBRATE

If you were here last week, I hope you remember that awesome outpouring from God that we read in Ezekiel ... if you weren't here, check out what God said in the midst of His frustration that He had with the Israelites. And remember, He was upset because they were not doing what they were supposed to be doing and God said:

8 - SCRIPTURE SLIDE

4 - SCRIPTURE SLIDE

EZEKIEL 34:11

¹¹"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

9 - SCRIPTURE SLIDE

5 - SCRIPTURE SLIDE

EZEKIEL 34:16

¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

God said, I am going to bring back those that strayed.

And then we read the story of the prodigal son and what happens when he comes back? The Father throws a party right? Like a real shindig. There's feasting and celebrating for the one that came back.

We have this opportunity every single Sunday. Every single time we come together we have the opportunity to celebrate when those who have strayed come back.

10 - TITLE SLIDE

6 - TITLE SLIDE

I was talking to my Dad about a month ago and he told me an awesome story. We have a close family friend and this man does not go to Church. My Dad said he was at the door to the Church holding it open for a couple and in the distance he saw our friend. And thought ... no, it couldn't be him. And then he realized it was. My Dad was so excited. He greeted him, welcomed him, and encouraged him.

For my dad, this was a time of celebration. I mean you go into service and then you get to sing praise songs to the God that loves everyone and you get to celebrate with God that our friend came to Church. WooHoo! Amen! Awesome! You know what I mean?

My Dad was in tears when I was talking to him about this because he said after service the man came up to him and said ... "I don't think I was supposed to come today because of what

was said in there. I think I was supposed to come because of what you said to me out here.”

And every time we recognize that this one hour matters, that we make this a priority, that we show up despite whatever else is going on in our lives ... we have an opportunity to celebrate when those who have strayed find their way back.

This One HOUR Matters. This One HOUR can bring us into closer relationships with each other and with God. This One HOUR can strengthen us and the ones around us. This One HOUR gives us the opportunity to celebrate our awesome God and His passion for those that have strayed.

So let's stand together now as we prepare to praise God and stand before Him in awe of how He changes lives. How He can use even us to strengthen the weak. How He gave it all because everyone matters to Him and how He can use this one hour that we have every week to do awesome things.

PRAYER

COMMUNION