



## Announcements

Men's Conference 2010 – August 13-14 | LCC

Make It Happen Men's Breakfast – Wednesdays, 6:15 | Benedict's Restaurant

Water Baptism – July 25 | Franco's Athletic Club | Mandeville

## Warm-Up

What does it mean to be connected to others? How do you connect with others routinely?

## Word

Today we are going to discuss the importance of being connected to others in a meaningful relationship.

### Read Acts 2:42-47

- What did the relationships of these early Christians look like?
  - Continual devoting themselves to fellowship
  - They had all things in common
  - Taking meals together
- What was the “fruit” of their connection?
  - Everyone felt a sense of awe
  - Signs and wonders were taking place
  - They had favor with all the people
  - God was adding to their numbers daily
- Where did they get this model? Where was it first learned?
  - Watching Jesus

Why should we be linked in to others?

### 1. Linked in for Ministry

Sometimes it's easier to give ministry than to receive it. At some point we are all going to need encouragement when we want to quit.

### Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

- Why is a personal touch important in delivering encouragement?
  - The ability to understand and empathize
- Was there a time when a relationship in your life ministered to you?

## 2. Linked in for Maturity

What really matures us is our relationships with other people. Being in close relationships with people can be hard. People can hurt our feelings and make us grow up.

### Read Mark 9:33-35

- Where was the focus of the disciples as to their relationship with Jesus? Where should it have been?
  - On serving one another.

## 3. Linked in for Maximum Impact

The way we are linked in to one another in ministry in love will impact the world. By our connection with others, people will know that we follow Jesus.

### Read Ephesians 3:8-10

This says that the church is the way God is showing His wisdom to the world.

- How does linking in with people in the church help us reach others for Jesus?
  - It shows the world how God's people work together to expand His kingdom.
- How have you seen this work in the past?

## Personal Application

- Who are you linked in with? Who can you turn to when you need ministry? Who do you need to link with to fulfill the ministry, maturity and maximum impact God has for your life?

## Prayer

Pray that each group member would seek the relationships that God has for him or her. Take time to pray for the needs of the people at your group. Also, please continue to lift up the people of the Gulf Coast who are being impacted by the oil spill and pray for wisdom for our leaders who are dealing with this event.