



DECADE OF LOVE

Introduction

Today we're concluding our "Decade of Love" series with a study on "Loving Pastors and Missionaries". Over the past few weeks we've looked at *who* we're going to be as a church and *what* we're going to do as a church over the next decade. Our theme verse for all of this has been Matthew 22:37-39, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." As a church, we're asking the question, "How can we love Pastors and Missionaries?" We believe it's our responsibility to be a part of the bigger Kingdom of God by investing our time and resources into others.

BIG Idea

We want to "Love Like Jesus" by establishing a thriving ministry of equipping and encouragement to Pastors and Missionaries.

Discussion Questions

1. What insight from Sunday's sermon did you find to be the most encouraging or challenging?

Read Acts 11:19-26

2. Up until Acts 11, the Apostles had been focused on sharing the gospel with other Jews. But in Antioch the gospel finally crossed ethnic lines and a revival broke out. What did Barnabas do after assessing the revival in Antioch? How can we follow his example when assessing the needs of ministries within our own church and beyond?
3. Barnabas is known for being an encourager because of his willingness to serve others; especially Paul. Why is the spiritual gift of encouragement frequently undervalued? Who are the encouragers in your life? Why are they so important for remaining faithful in your walk with the Lord? How could you become an encourager to Pastors and Missionaries?
4. Sunday, Pastor Nick shared about the Cross Church School of Ministry. What stood out to you about this ministry? What role could you play in serving as a Barnabas to the students enrolled in it?
5. Luke 12:48 says, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required". What encourages you the most about the opportunities before our church to serve other Pastors and Missionaries? Why is it tempting for us to become a drain rather than a fountain when it comes to our personal resources? How could you become more Kingdom-minded?
6. Which of the four lanes of love is God calling you to serve in the next 10 years (Loving the Next Generation, Loving the Lost, Loving the Vulnerable, or Loving Pastors and Missionaries)?