

Learning Together – Finding Purpose in Love

(Have a silk vine plant ready to demonstrate the first paragraph)

Jesus said “I am the Vine and you are the branches.” He told his disciples that it was important to stay connected to one another, and most importantly to show love to one another. Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

One of the difficulties many people are facing in this time of isolation is they are missing a sense of purpose. What are we supposed to be doing now that we can't go to school or work or music lessons or sports practice, or whatever it is that we usually look forward to?

The answer from Jesus is simple – our purpose in this world is to love one another. Maybe we can't show love the way we usually do. Maybe our usual way of showing love is to get together with our friends to play games or make music together, like singing in a choir. We just can't do those things right now.

So how can we stay connected and show love to each other and our community? How can we be the love of God in the world?

Well, besides staying at home so this sickness can't spread, which is an act of love by itself, I'm going to give you six challenges to do this week. I will post them on our website in case you forget what they are, you can go look them up:

1. Write a postcard or letter to someone and mail it through Canada Post.
2. Get a garbage bag and gloves and walk around your neighbourhood doing a litter pick up.
3. Join the 7 pm “Gratitude Call” – set an alarm for 7 pm, then go outside and make some noise like clapping and cheering to show your thanks to all those doctors, nurses and hospital workers who are working to keep us all healthy and safe. Communities all over Canada are doing this.
4. Start a donation box and find 20 things in your house that you can give away to a thrift store or church garage sale. It may be a while before your donation can be accepted, but you will be ready when the time comes!
5. Find a spot in your house or yard that you are going to clean up. Take a “before” picture and an “after” picture. I would love to see it, so you can share it on our social media site or email it to me.

6. Do a prayer walk around your neighbourhood – pray for the people in each house as you pass by. Pray for the workers who keep our streets clear and keep our power lines working. Pray for any birds or animals you see on your way. Pray about whatever else comes up for you on your walk.

Families can really help each other right now with finding a sense of purpose by focusing on showing love through action - love for each other and love for our community. Let me know how you did with your love in action this week – if you don't have my contact info, you can always email me from the contact page of the church website.

Let's say an echo prayer...Loving God...we miss our friends...and our old ways of connecting...because we love them....Help us find new ways...of showing love...in this time of change...and to find purpose...in connecting to each other...like branches on a vine....We pray in Jesus' name...Amen