



questions for reflection

series: "The Intentional Life"

Have you ever thought you were too busy to plan, too broke to budget or too overwhelmed to connect with community? All too often we live in a reactive haze, just trying to catch our breath before the onslaught of the next thing in life. With summer in view, we want to live in an intentional way where we get the full benefit of our relationships with others, our resources and our time with God. So join us as TNL explores The Intentional Life.

part 2:

"Our Relationships"

by Jared Mackey on Tuesday May 12, 2009

What aspect of your life do you sense God asking you to be more intentional about right now?

What areas of life do you feel most unintentional about?

Assessing your relationships, are they built more on commonality (age, gender, career, life stage, hobbies, etc.) or a shared common mission?

- What are the benefits to having relationships based on commonalities?
 - Can you give examples of these relationships?
- What are the benefits to having relationships based on a shared mission?
 - Can you give examples of these relationships?

In John 15:14 Jesus says, "You are my friends if you do what I command."

- What does it mean to do what Jesus commands?
 - What has Jesus commanded?
- Why does Jesus establish friendship with us as a result of following his commands (shared mission) and not on commonality?
- Would you consider yourself a friend of Jesus?
 - Would Jesus consider you a friend?

Jared talked about the average person's capacities for relationships:

- 3 people with whom we have deeply intimate relationships and where interpersonal communication happens on a thoughtful and shared level.
- 12 people with whom we have close relationships which are intentionally maintained and active, but do not exchange deeply confidential and private insights.
- 120 people with whom we have familiar relationships with knowledge of names, faces and short versions of personal stories.

Who are your 3, 12 and 120?

Which people were a part of Jesus' inner circle of intimate relationships?

Read: Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 5:35-43; 14:32-42

Which people were a part of Jesus' inner circle of close relationships?

Read: Matthew 10:2-4 and Luke 6:12-16

Is it important or even necessary for you to have relationships which fit into these descriptions (3/12/120)?

Why or why not?

How is God asking you to be intentional about your relationships?