

For the Love August 12-Sept 3

Tagline: The paradox of the greatest commandment

Focus: To help our people see they are God's plan to reach people with the Gospel in NW OH and beyond

Feel: Upbeat, modern and fresh

Why this series: During August, we want to point our church back to what's most important - our vision, mission and purpose as a church and as Christians

Response Areas: Yes

Invite Pitch: Have you ever had a moment where you thought, "if it weren't for the people, I would really love this!" People. Ugh. Even the creator of the Charlie Brown comic strip famously said, "I love mankind ... it's people I can't stand!! Can you relate? Even if you really love people, chances are you've had at least one or two moments where you thought, for the love - if they would just...if they could...if they wouldn't. Whether we like it or not, we find ourselves challenged by people. So maybe it's not a surprise that God's story is all about people and how we, as part of his story, are invited to love them. To love the people we know, people we don't, people we enjoy and people we don't - let's find out together how to turn for the love (read exasperated) into for the love (read with kindness).

Key Verse: 1 John 4: 10-11, This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

Weekly Topics and Content Goal:

Week 1: August 12/13, Ben, 21 Days of Prayer Kick-Off

Content: Loving God and being loved by him

Verse:

Week 2: August 19/20, Andy

Content: For the love of the stranger

Verse:

Week 3: August 26/27, Ben

Content: For the love of your actual neighbor

Verse:

Week 4: Sept 3/4, Christine Sweeney, Baptism

Content: For the love of your enemy

Verse:

Goals:

- Engage in 21 Days of Prayer text campaign (include some additional content on everyday ways to bless your neighbors)
- App roll-out

How will we know we achieved our goal?

- 1100
- Goal here? Same as 21 Days if using app to drive engagement, keep text in too?

Ministry Calendar and Holidays:

August 12/13, Kids Promotion Weekend

August 14, 21 Days of Prayer Begins

August 23, DreamTeam Launch

August 26/27 - Fall Groups Directory Opens

August 30 - Student Nights Launch

Sept 3 - 21 Days of Prayer Ends

Sept 4 - Labor Day

Series Resources:**Next Steps**

Five Ways to Bless Your Neighbors by Dave Ferguson

Family Ministries

- This is our Kids Camp Devotional from last year - focused around helping kids discover purpose and loving/serving others (making waves) by the power of the Holy Spirit.
<https://parentcuestore.org/collections/kids-books/products/make-waves-a-kids-devotional-on-changing-the-world>
- Podcast "How Serving Changes Kids"
<https://theparentcue.org/best-of-parent-cue-live-how-serving-changes-kids/>