

## **Move The Fight Forward is on its way!**

Like we have done in past years, MTFF is about equipping us as men to live life with the authority and purpose God the Father intends for us. Different from previous years, MTFF 2016 is intentionally meant to be a smaller group to allow us to connect as a community of men and focus on specific actions. Some time ago, I felt that God was showing me the idea of a chain-reaction.

How does a chain reaction impact my community? [As a team, read this out loud and use it as a discussion starter]

Let's consider together what a chain-reaction might look like. Brad was explaining that ignition happens when we help people align with the God given purposes in their lives, reconcile.

We know that we are meant to live in community. Life is better when we live it with others. But we often compare ourselves to others, instead of accepting others. We can be offended by someone's sin. But Jesus didn't seem to be offended by people's sin. He was comfortable with Himself in the presence of religious freaks that were self-righteous, doubters that wanted something from Him, and prostitutes who couldn't keep their lives together. Consider the women at the well. Lower-class. Female. Clueless to who God really was, although she knew her Bible. She was used by men and not able to keep herself together. Yet a simple conversation about how God as a Father saw her, changed her and her town. Or Matthew...a loner, despised by his own town, a traitor and supporter of those who would break down traditional values and would instill a liberal perspective. Who looked at life as what he can get from people for himself and who's best friends were people just like him. Yet a simple, "come hang out with me" from Jesus makes him a writer of the Bible. Neither of these people went to Bible school or had ambitions of changing the world. Yet a chain reaction was started not because someone wanted to manipulate them into saying some sort of prayer, or even go to church, but because the only reflection of God they would ever see, took the time to stop and know them. If a chain-reaction is created when pent-up energy meets an ignition source, and elements in close proximity get impacted by the result, what does a chain-reaction look like in our communities?

Remember, "...the kindness of God leads men to repentance." (Rom2:4)

What we want to create in this breakout session is a discussion among as many group members as we can, that helps us begin to understand that we are not meant to belong to a community like we do a club. We are meant to live in community. To contribute. To take ownership. To lead. It is part of our calling and God's purpose for us. It is holy, just like worship and prayer. When we look for opportunities to connect with people, not with a motive in mind to make

them come to church, but to truly know them, then our life begins to look like God's purpose for us. When that happens, the people close to us get impacted and a chain-reaction can start, by just simply living in a way that creates closeness with people and helping them see their life the way God does.

Have a discussion that helps the group begin to define God's purpose in community. Reconcile that picture to where we are today as individuals. Define actions that can close that gap. Describe how living in community matters to others. Use this as a motivation to take actions immediately. Then record the chain-reaction in people's lives that is the result. Here are some starter questions...

- Are there both negative chain-reactions and positive ones?
- What do positive chain-reactions look like?
- Is God looking for us to connect with people for the purpose of leading them to Christ? Or is that a bi-product of knowing people?
- Does God care if you're a leader in your community? If so, why does it matter to Him?

Action Ideas...

- Define your community?
- Is church the primary community for you other than work? Is that healthy?
- Are you in community with other believers, meaning that you know them well and know their lives? How about unbelievers?
- Are you favored by those who don't know God and asked to be part of their life?
- Let's see if we can write down a common vision of what we think God's intention is for us as it relates to community.  
If this is His perspective, are we there? How do I close the gap for myself and others?  
If we close the gap, what's the chain-reaction? How does my ability to align with what God thinks about how I should live in community impact someone else?
- Let's try to define together two or three specific actions or steps we can each take that results in connecting with people, creating a sense of community, being close enough to others that we can expose God's kindness to their life. How might that impact someone else's life.