a new way to be human

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Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

- Talk about your (or one of your) best friend(s) growing up. Who were they? How did you meet? What are some fun/crazy things you did? What was it about the relationship that made you best friends?

  How did being with your friend(s) make you feel?

- When you hear terms like, "Doing Life Together" or "Transparent Relationships" or "Vulnerable Sharing" what do you think? How do you feel?
- Outside of family, do you feel really connected to anyone? Why or why not?
- Did Jesus live a life of connection with other people? (Okay, that one's obvious.) What examples from His life show that He was deeply connected to others and that they were deeply connected to Him?

  - Did He show emotion toward others?
  - Did He involve others?
  - Did people display passion about their relationship with Him?

Read John 17:20-23.

- What are some things that you pick up from Jesus' prayer here?
- On a scale of 1-10 (1=Very Little; 10=Tons), how passionate is Jesus about His followers connecting with one another? Why?

Now, let's get a snapshot of the first church. **Read Acts 2:42-47.** Don't get lost in the details. Just try to get a feel for what relationships looked like in that first church.

- What are your thoughts about those relationships?
- Do you think these believers were living out Jesus' prayer for them?
- Jesus wants deeper and deeper connection for His followers. This is where the rubber meets the road. Relationships can only become as connected as we let them. Take a look at the following "Levels of Sharing" chart and answer the questions that follow.

  Level 1: Information (Sharing impersonal things)
  Level 2: Facts (Sharing facts about one's self)
  Level 3: Opinions (Sharing what you think about things)
  Level 4: Feelings (Sharing how you feel)
  Level 5: Needs (Sharing what you need)

- At what level do you feel most comfortable in your friend relationships?
- Do you have any relationships where you share on all levels?
- If you are in a small group, at what level does your group tend to share?
- How might you move toward deeper sharing in your group? Do you want to? Do you have any fears about that?