THE HEART OF RADICAL CONNECTION

SHARING LIFE & DISCOVERING HOPE

Radical connection is an investment in another child of God. It isn't about who we click with or are comfortable with; it's about who Jesus lays on our hearts to connect with on this part of the journey. We are all connected in the deepest, most profound ways. There isn't a single action, belief, or feeling that doesn't affect all of us. .

Growing deep friendships requires intentional investment over a long period of time—marinating, not seasoning. Radical connection is about forming a deeper bond, a relationship that goes beyond social niceties

GOD'S WORD

- *It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.* (Genesis 2:18)
- *Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.* (Ecclesiastes 4:9)
- *As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.* (Proverbs 27:17)
- *Jesus called the Twelve and began to send them out two by two.* (Mark 6:7)
- *Love one another.* (John 13:34)
- *Love each other as I have loved you.* (John 15:12)
- *Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* (John 15:13)
- *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.* (Ephesians 4:2)
- *Bear with each other and forgive one another...* (Colossians 3:13)
- *... encourage one another and build each other up.* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* (1 Peter 4:8)

KEY FEATURES OF RADICAL CONNECTION

We are better and brighter versions of ourselves when we are connected to others. Radical Connection is:

- rooted in love.
- nourished by prayer.
- nurtured over time.
- marked by belonging.
- strengthened through vulnerability.
- revealed through growing compassion.
- kindness.
- mutually forgiving.

MADE TO CONNECT

God calls us to do life together (which means making space for friendship in our daily lives,) and He equips us with everything we need:

- attention
- authenticity
- compassion
- courage
- empathy
- forgiveness
- grace
- honesty
- humility
- intentionality
- kindness
- patience
- sacrifice
- vulnerability
- willingness

Scientifically, the word radical means a *group of atoms behaving as a unit.* We might be different, but that shouldn't stop us from intentionally connecting, and discovering common ground.

6 STEPS TO RADICALLY CONNECT WITH OTHERS

1. Pray for courage and God's perfect timing.
2. Take a risk and invite someone to connect.
3. Listen patiently without judgment or agenda.
4. Be willing to share something authentic.
5. Stay present in the conversation and ask thoughtful questions.
6. Keep showing up.

Radical Connection is the willingness to be surprised (even delighted) by people we don't yet know. It's a journey of learning that we are all multi-dimensional. We can be selfish *and* kind, prickly *and* generous, extroverted *and* insecure. We are complicated people. We will fall short. We will hurt and disappoint one another, and we will make mistakes. But we are also loved *and* loveable.

How can we use the tensions uncovered in growing relationships to deepen our connection, build bridges, and foster healing? We will disagree and have heated discussions, but when we remain committed to the friendship and *choose* to love one another, we become a little more like Jesus, which changes everything.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What makes it most difficult for you to connect?
- What makes you feel most alone?
- What is your greatest relationship fear? Do you know what sparked it? What is one small brave step you could take today despite your fear?
- Who can you call, visit, or invite to connect with this week?

One of the greatest kindnesses we can offer is to say, "I see you. I hear you. I feel the weight of what you're carrying, and I am with you in it."