

Have you ever been with someone who wasn't present to you? Have you ever "zoned out" and not been present to others? What can you do to be more present to others reflecting relationships that are based on love seeking a true connection? Write your thoughts here giving thanks for the relationships with which God has blessed you.

Thursday, February 13

Read Psalm 128 and James 4:13-15. Have you ever had a mentor or experience the caring counsel of another person in your field of work or in a civic-minded organization? We often stand on the shoulders of others as we seek to stand on our own in whatever endeavor we are presently involved. It is a blessing to receive the wise counsel of someone with more experience. This is the mentor mentality and it is a gift that keeps giving as you offer assistance and guidance to others.

Have you ever had a mentor? Are you presently in a mentoring relationship – either as the mentor or mentee? How has your life been impacted through such relationships? Write your thoughts here.

Friday, February 14

Read Psalm 128. The fourth element of investing in relationships is being strategic. Being strategic in our relationships does not mean being manipulative or insincere. It should mean striving toward the other's greatest potential as you strive for your own potential. It means working together, utilizing our God-given gifts for God's greatest purposes.

How do you see the church being strategic in helping others achieve their potential within God's plan for creation? How are you strategic in that endeavor? Write your thoughts here asking for God's guidance toward your and the church's greatest purpose.

Message Notes – February 9, 2025

Momentum for Life – Investing in Real Relationships*

- I. Relationships are always _____, often difficult and sometimes downright heartbreaking.
 - A. This is the third in a series of messages on creating momentum in our _____ and we're _____ with the acronym DRIVE from Pastor Michael Slaughter's book *Momentum for Life*.
 1. The D of DRIVE stands for _____ to God.
 2. R stands for _____ for lifelong learning.
 3. I denotes _____ in key relationships.
 4. V indicates _____ for the future.
 5. E stands for _____ and _____.
 - B. Today we are dealing with the I in DRIVE – Investing in _____ relationships.
- II. The Psalm that is our Hebrew Scripture lesson for today – Psalm 128 – is a Psalm of _____.
 - A. There is a connotation of _____ with these Psalms.
 - B. Scholars frequently observe that the Psalms of Ascent deal often with matters of _____ life – place of residence, routine activities, the importance of a spouse and children as well as extended family and friends.
 - C. Psalm 128 points out the importance of faith, work and _____.
 1. What would _____ Psalm of Ascent look like?
 2. How does your _____ reflect your faith?
 3. How are you, your work and your family blessed through your devotion to _____?

*Psalm 128 and James 4:13-15

- III. What are the elements and essential steps to developing real relationships that are _____ to God?
- A. First, be _____>
 - B. Second, our relationships with God and each other should be mirror _____.
 - C. The third attribute element of investing in relationships is the _____ Mentality.
 - D. The fourth and final element of investing in relationships is being _____.
- IV. So ask yourself who stands behind _____ as investors in _____ life?
- A. Who are you mentoring, guiding, coaching and _____?
 - B. Relationships are always challenging, often difficult and sometimes downright heartbreaking. And they're worth _____ for.

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, February 10

In the message Pastor Jack said that relationships are always challenging, often difficult and sometimes downright

heartbreaking. How is that true in your life? How do you balance that thought with the fact that we are created for relationships? (Genesis 2:18) Meditate on the nature of relationships and write your thoughts here giving thanks to God for the relationships with which you are blessed.

Tuesday, February 11

Read Psalm 128. It's a brief Psalm – perhaps read it a second time pausing after each verse to contemplate the essential meaning each verse. Psalm 128 is a Psalm of Ascent. Psalms of Ascent were likely used by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem as part of a festival celebration. They are short and therefore can be easily memorized for such occasions. Scholars frequently observe that the Psalms of Ascent deal often with matters of daily life – place of residence, routine activities, the importance of a spouse and children as well as extended family and friends.

How does Psalm 128 address the issues of work, family and relationships beyond family? What issues would you include in a Psalm as Ascent that would reflect your personal life? Meditate upon these questions and write your thoughts here. You may want to take up the challenge to write your own Psalm of Ascent.

Wednesday, February 12

Read James 4:13-15 and Mark 12:28-31. Our relationships with God and others should be based in love and reflect a deep connection, paying attention and make the effort to develop our relationships. Both these attributes of being present and basing our relationships on love mean that we need to live in the present. Remember the words from our scripture lesson from James, “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” In other words, live fully today.