

# Journeying Together

WEEK 2



## Love Comes Alongside

# Journeying together

*God **comes alongside** us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, He **brings us alongside** someone else who is going through hard times, so that we can **be there for** that person just as God **was there for** us.'*

**(2 Cor. 1:4, *The Message*)**

# A culture of encouragement in our church



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*'Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us **encourage** one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching.'* (Heb. 10:25, NIRV)

**CULTURE:** Creating an environment in which we intentionally and regularly come alongside others, with support and help.

# A culture of encouragement in our church

- Create the opportunity to establish culture

# A culture of encouragement in our church

- Create the opportunity to establish culture





# A culture of encouragement in our church

- Create the opportunity to establish culture
- Consider how we can come alongside

# A culture of encouragement in our church

- Create the opportunity to establish culture
- Consider how we can come alongside
- Continue to come alongside

# Coming alongside means:

- Recognising that people do not have problems but needs
- Knowing how to receive and give love
- Loving as we have been loved by God
- An expression of authentic community

# The heart of a culture of care

*<sup>31</sup> Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'*

*<sup>32</sup> So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup> But many who saw them leaving recognised them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.*

*<sup>35</sup> By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. 'This is a remote place,' they said, 'and it's already very late. <sup>36</sup> Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.'*

# The heart of a culture of care

*<sup>37</sup> But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.'*

*They said to him, 'That would take more than half a year's wages!*

*Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?'*

*<sup>38</sup> 'How many loaves do you have?' he asked. 'Go and see.'*

*When they found out, they said, 'Five – and two fish.'*

*<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told them to make all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup> So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup> and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup> The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.*

- He accepts them
- He validates them
- He reaches out to them

**COMPASSION: Moved inwardly to get involved, care and come alongside.**

# Compassion:

- Moves towards others
- Accepts responsibility for others
- Gives no excuses
- Places what we have in Jesus' hands
- Draws on Christ's resources
- Reaches out to the point of felt need

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