

BRADY LANE LEDGER

E-Newsletter | A Word from Jeff Keller | A Devotion from Matt Chandler

Brady Lane Church

Believing–Living–Connecting

THE BIG TWO!

Upcoming Schedule

June 14 - All Ministries Open

June 21 - Fathers Day

June 28 - Back to Church Sunday

Back to Church Policies

- Refrain from handshakes and hugs and try to social distance
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations around the church
- If you have to sneeze or cough do so into your elbow...please cover your mouth. If sick...stay home!
- We will utilize communion stations rather than pass trays and plates. Instructions will be given during service. There will be a offering box on the entrance table.
- If you plan to sing bring a mask
- Brady Lane Kid ministry begins in the 11am service only.

Pause and Reflect

- What kinds of dialogue do you have with unbelievers?
- Do you intentionally seek to show hospitality to unbelievers?
- How can you maintain firm convictions on sexuality while also showing love to people who engage in different kinds of sexual immorality?

New Ways to Bring People Home

This week, I would like to explore the concept of reaching lost people. It has always been and always will be the primary mission of the church. And if the church - meaning born again Christians - if we were doing what we are called to do, if we were truly on mission then we would be bursting at the seams in churches all over the country...all over the world.

I don't think it is because we are not trying. I think there are many in the church that are having conversations, inviting people to church, and even inviting people to know Jesus. I don't think it's for lack of trying (completely - there are some Christians telling no one) but I think that it is our plans and processes for sharing the Gospel haven't changed for about 40 years. Some that haven't changed for hundreds of years. I think there will always be a place for the pulpit preacher, the Gospel will always need to be proclaimed. But more and more we have found that reaching people with the Gospel message from the pulpit only is getting fewer and fewer results. I have often said that if we rely solely on the preacher to do all the evangelism of the church - new believer numbers will be in the single digits - because we are only one person. But if everyone is doing evangelism then more will be reached.

Some might hear me saying that I am pushing for a changing of the Gospel, which I am 100% not advocating. I am merely suggesting that it is beyond time for new ways to share the Gospel, that speak directly to the crisis situations and problems that people are facing. We need to bring hope to the hurting. We need to bring peace to the grieving. We need to bring patience to angry. We need to bring mercy to broken.

You Can't Catch Sin

By Matt Chandler

Christians have a strange relationship with sin. By nature we are all still sinners. By spiritual rebirth we are declared righteous. Consider Paul's letters in the New Testament. In many of them he greets the readers as "saints," and as you continue reading, you find out that these early Christians were just as broken as you and I. Living now in between the resurrection and the second coming has a certain tension to it.

Here's the truth—if you're going to be on mission, you're going to have to befriend lost people. Simple as that. You can't catch sin. You don't catch sin by hanging out with sinners. Don't forget, you're still a sinner too. Yes, you are saved by grace and you now have the presence of the Holy Spirit. You're no longer a slave to sin, but you cannot look down on others with an air of superiority. After all, salvation is a gift of God's grace.

If we're going to model the way of Jesus as we engage in mission, we must stand firm against sin even as we welcome and love sinners. So talk with people. Engage in dialogue. Almost all of my dialogue with people outside the faith is about the nature and character of God. Is it the desire of God to crush us? Is God glorified and exalted when we are merely trembling before Him and obeying out of fear or when we are filled with joy as we delight in living according to His commands? What is God like? What's He after?

Introduce people to Jesus. You can't catch sin. But He can. He takes people's sins all the time and puts them on Himself. And then He gives us His righteousness as a gift so we can stand before God unashamed, washed clean by the precious blood of the Lamb.

We need to bring encouragement to overwhelmed.

This is what we are hoping to do with our new discipleship initiative called **Homepointe**. This September we will be launching **Homepointe** which has over 30 **Pointers** - or booklets that share ideas and resources on various topics and issues facing not only Christians but also lost people. That's the thing that we need to get more and more aware of - we all struggle with some of the same things - Christian and lost. If we could get lost people the information they need to help them with a particular life situation, then they may be more receptive to the rest of God's message! On top of the Pointers there are also Idea Cards and Church Wide Special Events that will be part of this initiative that we believe will drive us into a new and fruitful future taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in a new way that will heal hurts, answer questions, and provide paths to growth that they have never experienced before.

Tricia Roller, our GSLC Director has now also taken on the role of *Homepointe* Coordinator - and she will be working with the rest of the staff, and eventually a ministry team that will help the rest of the church, our preschool, and our community dive in to the *Homepointe* initiative.

More information will be coming out a little at a time over the next few months as we will be preparing for our launch this fall. We are excited about this as it will unify our efforts to help people take the love of Jesus into their homes, and into the homes of their friends and family in a way that will have a great Kingdom impact. This plan however, just like all others, requires buy in...it requires all of you getting behind it and helping us do the leg work and **CONNECTING** that we are all called to do. We believe that this material will make our job more clear and fulfilling because we will meet people right where they are and through Christ give them the tools they need to survive!

