

## STAYING CONNECTED

Scripture used: [II Peter 1:3-4 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

This was a wonderful week for NBCC! Pastor Hurmon announced several new appointments onto our church pastoral team, which will expand our church's ability to care for our community. First is the commissioning of three new associate pastors for NBCC: Andrea Alo, Soomee Kim, and Ed Ware. All three have been a part of NBCC for years, and have already been a huge blessing to the church and wider community. Second is the appointment of Jesse Cottonham to Campus Pastor of our Redwood City location. Pastor Jesse began his new role by delivering this week's sermon, which walked us through the importance of staying connected. NBCC's four-part vision is "To reach people who feel far from God; To make disciples; To build families; and To transform communities." This vision requires values to help it become a reality, and those values can only be practiced by the church in a diverse partnership that spans the entire world.

### KEY POINTS

- 1. Our sayings become our values.** We have all heard sayings such as "look both ways before you cross the street" and "it takes a village to raise a child." These are important because we align our behavior to them over time. They become concrete behavior, and change the way we treat others and even how we think about ourselves. Pastor Jesse's uncle used to say to him, "It's cheaper to go first class." He pondered this saying for a long time before realizing what it meant: seek God's best for everything we do, from how we spend our time, talent, and treasure to how we treat others (and care for ourselves).
- 2. What God wants us to accomplish, we can only do together.** This is one of the ten values of NBCC. It's based on [I Corinthians 3:9 \(NIV\)](#), which emphasizes the importance of partnership and collaboration. We are greater together than individually, whether that means two of us or two thousand. We are especially reminded that one of the greatest gifts we give to one another is sharing our story.
- 3. We pray because we believe in a relationship with God.** This is another one of NBCC's ten values. It is based on [I Thessalonians 5:17 \(NIV\)](#), which reminds us to pray continually. God wants to hear from us, and we definitely need to hear from God. Our model for prayer starts with the Lord's Prayer, given to us by Jesus. That is the foundation, and we can build from there into all kinds of rich ways of relating to God.
  - a. Base our requests on God's character.** If we don't know God's story, then we don't know God's character. When we do that, we can expect an answer as Jesus tells us in [Mark 11:24 \(NIV\)](#). As we read the Bible, we become more aware of God's plan, God's mind, and God's heart.
  - b. Confess the sins we are aware of.** It may be hard for us to admit our mistakes, but God already knows them. Come clean, and don't try to hide. Making a mistake is one kind of sin (commission) but so too is failing to do what God calls us to do (omission). God gives us the freedom to be real with Him about our shortcomings, and receive forgiveness to live life differently.
  - c. Claim the promises of God.** The more we read the Bible, the more we learn about the thousands of promises that God makes. [Jeremiah 29:11 \(NIV\)](#) is a personal favorite of Pastor Jesse. If we choose a few that speak to us, we can claim God's promises to us every day!
  - d. Be specific about what you ask for.** It's okay to get into details when you pray. Bring everything to God, like King David did in [Psalms 62:8 \(NIV\)](#). He really treated God as a refuge, bringing the good, the bad, and the ugly to the Lord in prayer.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - Being connected to God and to NBCC is a two-way street. It requires work, and the determination to put certain values into practice. What values do you seek to live by? Is there a story behind why you hold these values? How are these values rooted in the character or story of God?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Consider [II Peter 1:3-4 \(NLT\)](#). This week Pastor Jesse talked about the values of the church, and the power of stories, and the promises we count on. How are you coming to know God more and more? How do you learn more about His story? What promises from God do you count on?
- 3) DO** - We can only do this work together. Our best lives happen in collaboration, so take the next step in your relationship with God. Learn more about becoming an NBCC Partner by visiting [nbccbayarea.com/partnership](http://nbccbayarea.com/partnership). If there's another way you want to plug in, let a staff person know! Join us next Sunday for the start of a new series, Acts of Kindness!