

Kings Core Values

3. Core Activities - Fellowship, Discipleship & Mission

If you visit a church where you don't normally worship, many things will probably strike you as odd or unusual. If you consider those things, you can often work out what the key values or priorities of that church are. Alternatively, the 'peak' of the service (sermon, communion, prayer ministry, coffee afterwards! etc.) or the amount of time devoted to an activity often shows what the church considers to be the most important aspects of worshipping God together.

- What do you think people do/ would notice about the priorities of Kings from our Sunday service? (*making a list of all the aspects of a Sunday morning service might help*)

The early church presents us with some models of how a community of Christians should operate. Whilst, culturally, much has changed between the first and twenty-first centuries there are still principles that apply to any church.

Fellowship

1. How would you define the difference between friendship and fellowship?

Read 1 John 4.7-12 & 19-21

2. How does John explain the origins, purposes and nature of Christian fellowship?

The book of Acts gives us examples of how the early church functioned.

3. What values or principles do you think are modelled in the following passages?
 - a. Acts 2.43-47
 - b. Acts 9.32-42
4. How far is creating a culture of genuine fellowship in a church the responsibility of leadership and how much should it be dependent on individual members?
5. How do /might you contribute to building a genuinely loving community at Kings?

Discipleship

In his letters Paul repeatedly talks of the Christian faith as a process of 'growing up' or 'pressing on'.

Read Romans 12.1-8

6. To what extent would you say you have 'been transformed' in the last year? (What have you learnt? How have you changed/ grown in your faith?)
7. Typically, where does 'discipleship' happen for you? What types of activity help you to grow in your faith? How far have you been proactive in pursuing them recently?
8. In your opinion how might we become more effective in discipling each other?

Mission

Traditionally 'evangelism specialists' or 'missionaries' have spread the gospel on behalf of the whole church.

9. Why do you think that is the case and how far do you think this is an appropriate understanding of Jesus' instructions in Matt. 28.16-20?

Current statistics suggest that the average British person hears the gospel 7 times before they accept it for themselves and that more people come to faith through friends than any other method.

10. Where do you currently have the opportunity to be a witness to Jesus? How do you feel about that?

Reflect and Pray

The New Testament suggests that all three of these core activities involve the participation of all believers, not just leaders or specialists. Certainly some are more gifted at one type of ministry than others, but in order to create a culture of fellowship, discipleship and mission everyone needs to join in.

- Of the three areas which have you been most challenged about and what will you do in the light of that challenge?