

Up Close Impact

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Notes

Up-Close Impact!

1. God desires His children to be:
 - a. Up-close—vertically
 - b. At arms-length—horizontally
 - c. And heart-forward—as His “love in the middle” children!
2. Full _____, but empty _____ are not His plan.
 - a. His plan is not that we are mere _____ brokers.
 - b. We are made in God’s image. His desire is for us to be: “_____” people, letting love set our course of daily action.
 - c. God desires laborers who will follow Jesus’ example and _____ a _____ of _____. (Eph 5:1-2)
 - d. God’s “Incarnate Word” to us in the flesh—modeled a “Plan A” “love-in-the-middle” (L) lifestyle.

Love in the middle ... High Impact (L)iving!

1. God has always wanted to be “_____” to His creation.
 - a. He sent Jesus into the world as Immanuel; “God _____ us.” (Mt. 1:23)
 - b. Jesus’ last recorded earthly words: “I am _____ you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mt. 28:20b)
 - c. When Jesus returned to heaven, God sent us the Holy Spirit to be always present _____ us. (I Cor. 3:16)
2. How does God get up close to others in our spheres of influence?
 - a. Through _____.
 - b. We’re His _____.
3. We must connect up-close with _____ in order to connect Him with others.

Notes

Jesus said TWO things matter:**1. Loving God**

- a. What makes a great _____ also makes an impactful Kingdom laborer in every day mainstreams of life.

The greatest gift you'll ever give the world is your _____ with God.

- b. The more you spend time with Him, the more He'll show up where you show up on the _____ of your life—your home, workplace, school, social locations, along-the-way places ... and all the other places you go.

You'll become a _____ church; a life which houses God's presence and brings His purposes up-close to others.

- c. We all have God-given talents and spiritual gifts to share with others. But what people need far _____ than us and our gifts is: _____!
- They need HIS presence, grace, power and love.
 - The more you've been with Him, the more _____ will show everywhere you show up. (Acts 4:13)
 - You become a spiritual "appetizer"—food served before the MAIN course, a "sample" meant to stimulate the appetite. "O taste and see that _____ is good!"

Time **with** (instead of just "about") God:

Daily time with _____

Extended "Dates" with _____

(Luke 5:16)

Suggested book: *Is God Waiting for a Date?*

Abiding with _____

(a presence-driven life of fruitfulness—John 15:5)

Suggested book: *Practicing God's Presence*

Serving with _____
(John 21)

2. Loving People

- a. Let _____ tell you what to do, pray, say, write, or how to express love in silence!
- Love informs!

Notes**b. God uses ...**

- “Imperfect” people
- “Unworthy” people
- “Sin-soiled” people
- “Untrained” people
- “Fearful” people
- “_____” people

Where to Deliver God’s “Love”**Mainstreams ...**

Jesus didn’t wait for people to pursue him at synagogues—where he attended, read the scroll, spoke, or healed.

Jesus met people where they lived, where they worked and where they went about _____.

Messes ...

Jesus ministered in the mud puddles of human _____.

Meal Tables ...

Jesus met & ministered up-close to people around _____.

Reexamine the life, words and discipleship training of Jesus.

**Up-close intimacy _____ God, and
up-close arms-_____ life-connections with others ...
Is God’s “love in the middle.”**

Plan A
... and there is NO “Plan B”!