

reconnecting with our DNA 

Many Church leaders and christian sociologists say that this pandemic has forever **changed** the church.

Some **bad changes from the pandemic:**

- People have made worship a **personal** experience rather than a **community** experience. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— Acts 2:46 (NLT)

Worship always brings us **together**.

- The purpose of unity has shifted from **belonging** to **believing**.

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Acts 4:32 (NLT)

You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:18 (MSG)

- We have accepted **isolation** as a healthy alternative lifestyle. Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)
Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone... Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

A **personal question we need to ask is:**

- How has the pandemic changed **me**?
- The pandemic can change **how** we do what we do, but it should never change **why** we do what we do.
- The heart of the Quest is to love **God** and love **people**.

And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ... Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

How to love well:

- We make the **outsider** our priority.

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled....(Jesus said) For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Luke 19:1-10 (NLT)

'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders." Matthew 9:12-13 (MSG)

We want our guests to know:

- They **belong** here.

Ways we love well:

- I'm going to see others with **compassion**.

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6:34 (NIV)

- I'm going to look for opportunities to **encourage** others.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

- I'm going to treat **others** the way I want to be treated.

Do to others as you would like them to do to you. Luke 6:31 (NLT)

- I'm going to **serve** others before myself.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

- I'm going to make **time** for others.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Luke 19:5 (MSG)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

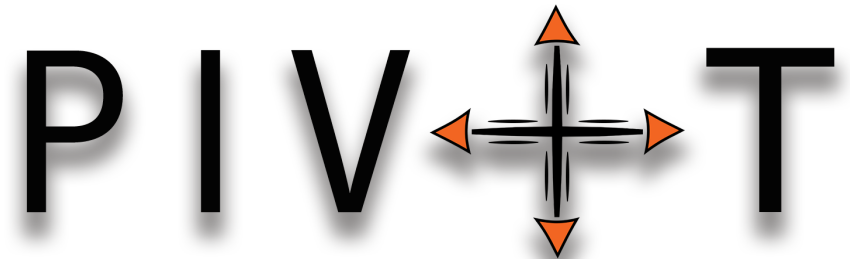
These questions also work well for personal time with God.


- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think the pandemic has changed you in any way? Explain.
- What are some ways you have noticed that the church has been affected by the pandemic?
- What are some other reasons you think the church needs to "Pivot" (make adjustments) in a response to this pandemic?
- Talk about how we can better love God and people.
- Do you feel that you make the "outsider" (guest) your priority on Sundays? If so, name two people that were guests last Sunday at the Quest? Lol
- Why do we want our guests at the Quest to know they belong at the Quest?
- Have you ever been an outsider at a church, a country or a function? How did you feel? What would have made you feel welcomed?
- How do we show guests compassion?
- What are some ways we can encourage our guests?
- How can we better serve our guests?
- Are you committed to making time for our guests?
- How does it help guest when we invite them to sit with us?

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Today's Talk..



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“How to love well”