

WHAT MATTERS

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Part 2 - "Don't Miss What Matters"

Small Group Material

January 15th, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *When your presence is somewhere so is HIS.*

Study Verses: *Mark 3:1-6, Matthew 10:16, Colossians 4:5-6, Luke 5:17-26.*

Key Points

- *Priorities are determined by what we value. Unfortunately, the pace of our life squeezes out our priorities.*
- *Values explain and preserve why you do what you do.*
- *A context is present in every relationship, situation and circumstance.*
- *Being relevant means you matter.*
- *Don't have the wrong conversations or waste your time solving the wrong problem. Take the time to understand what is really going on.*
- *If your words are seasoned with salt, they awaken thought and the thirst for connection.*
- *When we don't understand or value context, we become irrelevant.*
- *Always pay attention. Pay attention to your words, your presence and your influence.*
- *Context can either be imposed or created.*

ENCOUNTER

- How would you describe or define CONTEXT? Why is it important that our church community values context? How is understanding and valuing context critical in your own life?
- What is the danger in not valuing context? What happens if we fail to uphold this value?
- Context can be either imposed or created. Describe the difference between the two. How is context present in every relationships, situation or circumstance?

FORMATION

- Read Matthew 10:16. Why do you believe Jesus used a dove and a serpent to describe how we should carry ourselves in this world? What qualities do these two animals possess that should be seen in our lives?
- Read Colossians 4:5-6. What does it mean to let your conversations “be seasoned with salt”? What role do our ears and mouth play in valuing context? How can valuing context help us make the most of every opportunity?
- Read Mark 3:1-6 and Luke 5:17-26. How do these two stories speak to Jesus understanding and valuing context? In what ways did Jesus speak to the real issues, concerns and attitudes that were present below the surface?

EXPRESSION

- In what relationships or situations are you failing to understanding context? How is this affecting your connection points and the influence you have in this area or relationship?
- What are you bringing to the environments you are a part of? Are you adding or taking away value? Does your life cause people to be drawn to you or avoid you?
- Where are you having the wrong conversation or attempting to solve the wrong problem? How can you begin to pay attention and address the deeper issue taking place below the surface?