



The Art Of Showing Up | Calling Is Greater Than Comfort

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Good Morning, Menlo Church, and welcome to a really special time of the year. So glad that we get to share it together as school starts back up, and parents are like, "Yay!" and kids are like, "Really grateful."

Welcome to college students who are starting their year back with us. We're so grateful. I've heard college students say some version of, "I love being back with my friends and back on campus. If I could just get out of the class part, it would be perfect." I hope this is a fun part of your life and experience in this season. And we have ministry launches that happen all around Menlo in this season, too. It's fun to see that life get reinfused to our campuses. It's such a joy.

Speaking of that, a special shout out to our campuses in San Mateo, Mountain View, Menlo Park, Saratoga, and to our extended Menlo Church family online. Whatever your fall looks like, we're just glad to be a part of it and hopefully a part that fuels your faith and your life together.

Now, last week we had some amazing Back to School Bash moments and experiences for kids and students all across Menlo. We had hundreds of kids and students that got to have fun with bounce houses and foam guns and great times of connection with each other. And I would say this: if you weren't here last week and you're a kid or you're a student, you're going, "Is it too late?" No, no, absolutely. We would love for you to jump in. There's still time. We have fun together every week, and there is a community of people at your campus who would love to get to know you.

This weekend, we're beginning our first series in the fall called "The Art of Showing Up." So, check one: you showed up. Great job. Well done. That might not seem like it's much of an art these days, but in a

time and a moment where we can all be really tempted to try and find shortcuts, like we talked about last week, it's really easy to trade showing up for showing off. Our curated lives and crafted images, they can seem so polished that even if we just give ourselves a little bit of time for introspection, it can make a big difference. Because what I think we're all tempted to do is trade showing up for counting down. Counting down the minutes of our over-scheduled week or our over-scheduled day or our over-scheduled lives to something that we can collapse into and just numb out. But Jesus offers us something better than the alternatives of numbing out or over-scheduling.

In this series, we're going to look at the words of Jesus and allow him to re-evaluate the way we live our lives, the paths that we have made well-worn in our minds, even if they aren't good for our souls. And I hope that we all find a little bit of fresh air for the vision of life that Jesus offered 2,000 years ago and that he offers every day to us today.

But before we get started, I'm going to pray for us. And if you've never been here before or never heard me speak, I pray kneeling as a reminder of my own propensity to drift from this very work in me that starts by each one of us saying, "God, might I be present with you so that I can be present in the places and spaces and with the people you've put around me?" Would you pray with me?

God, thank you so much. Thanks for never giving up on us, that no matter how many times it feels like we've given up on you or how many times it feels like our life has gotten in the way or how many times distractions have distorted our view of you, that you are always waiting, ready to welcome us home. And so today, as we process some challenging messages from Jesus, would you help us to sense and experience Jesus in a personal way that allows us to take it from today into the rest of our week? It's in Jesus' name. Amen.

Alright. So, this is a real question. I want you to raise your hand if you were in band as a kid. Not a band, that's cool. Band. How many of you were in band? Okay, perfect. Takes one to know one. I was a nerd, too.

If you're unfamiliar, which would feel crazy, band is where you get to pick an instrument, probably for a genre of music you never played before. You learn the genre of music at the same time you learn the instrument.

For me, when I was in fifth grade, there was a lady that came and pulled us out of class. She taught gym and she taught band. She was very good at teaching gym. And in a side room next to the classroom, she showed me various band instruments. And in just a few minutes, she asked me to choose one of those band instruments that I would take with me and that I would play in the band that year.

Now, there are a lot of really cool options when you're picking band instruments. And at the time, I was kind of focused on blending in, though, which eliminated some of the ones that I might otherwise pick. There was no way I was going to be a tuba player. That was going to bring way too much attention. Even saxophone was a little big for me. And so, I went with trumpet. Felt like a safe, down-the-middle-of-the-fairway instrument. And I really struggled in

my first year of playing trumpet in band. But it was not a surprise to me.

Like, I was getting through rehearsals, getting through concerts. I was not the first chair. I very easily might have been the last chair. That was the experience for me. And it was not a secret. I knew exactly what the problem was. I never, I mean, literally not one time, practiced. I did not open that case at my house one time. So every rehearsal that we did was the next set of minutes for me of me practicing that part.

Now, early in my sixth grade year, I practiced very little, like a very, very little amount of time. And you know what happened? My new band teacher, who if you can believe it, exclusively taught band, which was a new treat, that new band teacher came into one of my classes during the day, stopped the class, and gave me an award in front of all of my classmates for most improved band member. And before you get impressed, which based on your laughter, I don't think

you are, which is hurtful, it wasn't because of how good I had gotten. It was because of how bad I had been.

Now, I had to lean into an important lesson in that moment that I've had to lean into a few times in my life. Maybe you have as well. And that is that we won't grow up until we show up. You have to actually be present to the challenge. You have to put in the work.

Now, the type of life that we experience when we export all of our development to something or someone else is not the kind of life that God has designed you for. See, the great news is that while we're not learning to play the trumpet this weekend, pressure's off. Even if you feel like you have struggled to show up in the lives of other people or show up in your own pursuit of Jesus, the great news is that just like with me, a little bit of effort can go a long way. It can actually make a ton of progress because of the work of Jesus in your life.

And Jesus is going to teach us a really important lesson today and really over the course of this series. And as I walk back to the touchscreen, some of you right now are like, "Oh, the touchscreen's back." And some of you are like, "Oh, the touchscreen's back." But what Jesus is going to challenge us with is that calling is greater than comfort.

For some of us, our entire life is built around prioritizing our comfort. That I want what I want. I want it the way I want it, and I want it when I want it. And the idea that anything would be greater than that is so countercultural that it can feel really suffocating.

As a matter of fact, just before the passage that we're going to spend time in today, Jesus has been performing miracles. He's been teaching lessons that no one's ever heard before with authority no one's ever been exposed to before. And he's drawing people out of their comfort zone everywhere he goes. But something happened right before our passage.

People wanted to follow Jesus, but they wanted to follow Jesus with conditions. They had to-do lists that they wanted to become to do lists. They needed to go back and see somebody, go to the event that they had already RSVP'd to. They had things that they wanted to juggle in their journey with Jesus. And Jesus had some really strong words for them, just like he does for you and me.

Jesus said this. He says, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). This is like first century fit check by Jesus. If you say yes to following me, but then you go back, you return back to your patterns, you return back to your way of life, you return back to priorities that are not me, it turns out you were not ready for the kingdom of God to be made true in and through your life.

Now, what's so hard is that this has described everyone. This has described me. If you're a follower of Jesus, this has described you. But Jesus is not saying these words because he's manifesting some overly stern military leader or some rigid high school football coach.

Jesus knew what they were signing up for way more than they did. And if they weren't ready for the calling that they were going to receive on their life, he didn't want them to sign up for something that they didn't understand the sacrifice it would require. He'd rather them say no upfront than yes and then be surprised.

So with that as the event right before our passage today, Jesus gives the first of three aspects of your and my calling that is greater than our comfort. And the first one is that we are called to one another.

Now, if you don't have siblings, you may not know this line, but I'm the youngest of four. My oldest brother is 15 years older than me, and I heard this line a lot growing up. One of my siblings would maybe hear about me getting bullied or picked on when I was young. When I was young, I was very small. I was very quiet. I had a really debilitating stutter. I was an easy target. And so if one of my siblings heard that I was getting picked on or bullied at school, the loving thing that they would say was, "Hey, they don't get to make fun of you. Only I get to make fun of you." And that was like a because I love

you, you know. It was like this funny family thing where it was like, "Oh, thanks. I'm glad you love me enough to make fun of me." You know.

Now, Jesus, he was forming a faith family that if you read the story of that faith family in the New Testament, you're going to see that there's function and dysfunction. There are bumps and bruises along the way. And it wasn't just for the sake of people learning more information. That's what they were used to. It was for transformation in mission that they were actually being sent to do something.

And so after this, after Jesus sets the expectations about saying yes, that their calling would be greater than their comfort, he says this. He says, "After this, the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them ahead of him two by two into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"(Luke 10:1-2)

Now, we just were here after this. This is the group of people that wanted to sort of be connected to Jesus, but they didn't necessarily want to connect with Jesus. They wanted people in their life, but they weren't ready for community in their life. They wanted comfort. They weren't ready for calling. And so now that Jesus has clarified, he says, "All right, there's this group of people that I'm going to send out to do something on my behalf." He's creating this advance team to all the places that he's about to go. And he clarifies something so important, right?

Jesus has made this calling clear. He's communicated the necessary sacrifice that's been elaborated. And he's separated 72 disciples to become his advanced crew in community. Notice that they are put together in groups to do ministry and mission with each other in an urgent way. This is not overly casual. Even though there is a lot of harvest, there was not enough laborers to help. So he's sending them out. He's also calling them to pray that they're understaffed, underrecruited group of laborers, God might increase along the way.

Now, Jesus is a master teacher, and one of the ways this shows up is that the illustrations he uses to explain his point are always understandable to the audience that he is communicating to.

Oftentimes, he's actually looking at the thing he's using as an illustration. And so here, he's talking about agricultural practices that they absolutely would have understood. He was very aware of the idea that a great harvest was irrelevant if you didn't have a lot of workers to collect it. Depending on the fruit that you're collecting in that culture, you may only have a few days before it overripens and the harvest is wasted.

See, Jesus, he wanted them to understand the urgency of their calling. We've probably all seen the moment when someone is ready to hear about your faith or the story of how hope has become bigger than your hurts in your life. But if they don't get it, if we aren't connected in their life, if we don't have that conversation, oftentimes they'll settle for something. We'll settle for something that just numbs our pain again and we move on. And we do that till the next time, till

the next diagnosis, till the next brick wall, till the next painful realization.

And so Jesus, he sends these disciples out in teams to get to know one another and to be ready for the ripe situations of God's preparation and the people that they would run into.

See, Jesus, he's already given you and me three aspects of our calling to one another in just a few first verses here. The first is that we choose community. That it actually takes an active choice. We will never fall into this.

The second is that we go on mission with our community. That we don't just sort of sit back and relax. Our calling is not our comfort. Our calling is a mission to love and bless people well.

And then the third one is pray as a community for more laborers. That we can look around, you know, and maybe for you this fall you're wondering what should our life group do? I would say these are three great starting rhythms in your life group here at Menlo: to choose to invest in your community, to go on mission and serve as a community, and to pray that in a moment that the world is looking at in Silicon Valley, God, would you raise up more laborers?

Now, being called to one another, it means that we will have to sacrifice comfort and convenience for something bigger. As I've mentioned recently, even as recently as last week, the fastest growing use of AI right now that people are using is companion apps, simulated relationships when they feel lonely, when they feel isolated.

And on one level, I totally understand and appreciate the instinct that says this is always available. This is someone that will hear me. This is someone that will respond to me. But the very nature of artificial intelligence, right, is that it's artificial. And so artificial intelligence companions are artificial companions. They're not real. But I think

that there's a disconnect in our expectation about relationships that leads us there.

Years ago, there was an advertising campaign from a store called Staples. You might be too young for this reference. That's okay. But they talked about the easy button. And the idea of the easy button was like whatever happened in your life, you just push this and Staples could make that problem go away. Could make it easier. Not for nothing, but I've been to Staples. It has never made my life easier. But that's a different sermon.

It was a good ad though, right? But it sets a horrible expectation for a community. If in our life we just think that's hard, but that should be easy. Where's the button for me to click and have an easy experience in my life of relationships or my job or my education or my calling from God or this area of growth that I need? I'm just looking for an easy button that's easy in my life.

There is an easy button in your life. But when you click it, isolation and loneliness are what we will find are easy. Community, it takes work.

Now, isolation and loneliness, I want to be very, very gentle here. Isolation and loneliness are not easy to live with. They're exhausting to live with, but they are very easy to drift into. And when our expectation is, "Well, I want community to be this. I want it to be easy. I want to be able to just fall into it," I'm just telling you, this side of heaven, this button does not exist for meaningful community in your life. It's going to take work.

Now, you don't have to make a terrible decision to end up lonely. Just do nothing. Just drift. And if you want to get out of that, it's going to take effort. It's going to take work. Otherwise, we will all continue to drift further and further away, only accelerated by these sort of simulated visions of relationship that aren't real.

Our calling to one another, it requires commitment to the vision of Jesus in our life. And we'll explore how you can do that here at Menlo in just a few minutes. But remember, we won't grow up until we show up. It's going to take you being present as more than spectators, as people who participate in the mission of God together. It is not a solo sport.

Now Jesus, he doesn't give us a calling to one another all by itself. He also shares that we are called to bless others. That might seem like an obvious, even a little cheesy Christian line, but bear with me for just a minute. I think it may be helpful as a tool.

See, Jesus has just sent 72 disciples in these advanced teams to new places to get them ready. But his instructions are very specific. As a matter of fact, he wants them to understand the urgency for the mission that he has sent them on. And so, as a result, Jesus continues this way. It says, "Go your way. Behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." Which I'm sure is like, "When is the encouragement coming?" right? It says, "Carry no money bag, no

knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road." This even just seems inhospitable, right? "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you." (Luke 10:3-6)

Now, these instructions are not universal instructions, but Jesus gives this group of people some very unique instructions here.

First, he is telling them that they are going out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Imagine if that was our pitch for you serving on a team here at Menlo. You know, that's a pretty tough pitch. And so here they are being communicated that their calling wasn't safe. And that if you think my calling needs to be safe and it needs to be comfortable in order for it to come from God, I'm telling you, if that's the precursor to the calling you're willing to step into, you are settling for a very small, very ineffective calling. And when you know that there are threats around you in your calling, it changes how you show up. When you understand it's urgent and dangerous, it changes your perspective. And that's where Jesus goes from here.

They aren't supposed to bring money, not a bag, not sandals. They aren't supposed to even greet people that they see on the road. Like, you are on a mission. Don't get sidetracked. But it kind of sounds like the opposite of what I would expect Jesus to give as advice, right? Inhospitable, unkind. But the original 12 disciples, they're given very similar instructions just a chapter earlier because Jesus wanted them in this moment to understand something very clear for this moment. He wanted them to understand dependence, that their power wasn't going to come from their preparation, from their planning, from their provision. It was going to come from God alone. Period.

So by leaving everything behind, they were being forced to lean on God and the hospitality of those who would receive the message. By not stopping for long greetings along the road, they were reminded that the mission was urgent and that distractions were costly.

There was this impact, right? And by being sent out as lambs among wolves, they learned that following Jesus, it isn't about safety or comfort. It's about surrender. So what looks at first like odd or even

inhospitable instructions is really a way of shaping their posture.

They were to go out urgently, humbly, and vulnerably. Is that the way you would describe your life group? Is that the way you would describe your calling in Jesus? Dependent not on their own strength but on the spirit of God and the peace of Jesus for their everyday life with him.

They would offer peace from God to a stranger. And either way, if they would accept them, then this unique peace that God had given them would sit on this house, would rest with them. And if not, it would stay with them and they would keep going, which is pretty wild. But Jesus, he wasn't done with the instructions just yet.

And so in this same passage, Jesus continues with these instructions. He says, "Remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you." As a picky eater, this is

actually my nightmare. "Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" (Luke 10:7-9)

Now Jesus, he goes on to describe this incredibly special and unique ministry that the groups he sent out would participate in with strangers that they would stay with them and bless them, that they would receive food. But really the incredible power of healing that was sent with them with the disciples to each home to bless them. They were sent to bless each person that they interacted with, every family that they connected with. Isn't that incredible?

Maybe you feel like this is way outside of your comfort zone. And don't worry, we are not starting like a "let's go knock on strangers' doors today and ask to live with them and get food from them as long as they'll provide it." Some of you are like, "that sounds like an interesting ministry." This is a unique situation, right?

But I do think that there's something really important for us to learn from a framework they set for us. They blessed people everywhere that they went, every place that would have them. And I think God wants you and me to do the same thing. Blessing someone means that you offer God's favor and God's protection to them. Even strangers, even neighbors, even coworkers, even classmates.

If you're unsure how to do this, I'm going to share a tool with you that I think can help. It's the word BLESS used as kind of a framework to help you and me understand how we might do this in our everyday life.

The first is the letter B, which stands for begin with prayer. Now, I would say we begin with prayer. We never finish with that. We're praying throughout our day consistently and intentionally for the people that God has placed around us. People in our neighborhood, people in the building that we live in, people in the hallway or the office area that we work in, people in the classroom that we're a part of, that we're just regularly praying. And maybe God will use it to

spark a conversation. But to understand, I can genuinely care for other people even by just praying for them.

Maybe you walk with a friend and the two of you can pray quietly, not weird and loud, but just quietly for the places, spaces, and people you walk around. Maybe for you, you're like, "I don't even know that person's name." Okay, just pray for the grouchy guy that walks his dog every day. Just pray for that guy. You know, if you're praying for somebody in the office that you should remember their name, but you don't remember their name. That's fine. Pray for them. God knows their name. It's okay.

Maybe for you, you're praying for people to discover the hope of Jesus in the midst of the stress and the weight that they're feeling in life. Just pray for them. Maybe you're praying for a health diagnosis you know about.

The next one is L for listen with care. Whether they flow from that or they're intentional in your life. You listen with care. It might not always happen, but whether it's a conversation that you're planning on having or not, just be present. Listen. Put your phone down. Make eye contact. Be present in listening.

Pastor and author David Augsburger put it well when he wrote, "Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable." Here's the thing. In 2025, if the only thing you do with people in your life is attentively look at them and listen to them, that might be the closest thing to love that they get all week. Continue to pray for them. Listen with care.

E is eat together, which some of you were not on board with this until this one. And you're like, "Can we just jump to eat together?" Sure, go for it. But you're hopefully praying, listening, and you get to have unhurried time, the slow pace of a long meal in someone's home or at a restaurant where you're able to share normal and natural

conversations with natural relationship warmth growing more comfortable throughout the conversation.

Then the first S is serve in love. Now, if this is a meal you've prepared, maybe that is how you're serving. Maybe you're going to help clean up. Maybe you're picking up the check. Maybe you're writing them a thank you note. Maybe it's a neighbor who needs help getting their garbage cans up or down, so you help them with that. Maybe it's something that you can do practically that just you serve in love to that person while you continue to pray, listen, and share meals together.

And then finally, there is the second S, share your story. Over the course of the last year, we spent a lot of time talking about the power of our story. And it doesn't have to be like, "Oh man, I have to share my story from front to back." For some of you, especially if you're a Christian, just share where you are right now. How God's faithfully showing up in your life right now.

The more places that you let God show up in your life, the more places that he is integrated into your everyday living, the easier it will be when someone else tells you something about their life and you're listening with care for you to say, "Yeah, I am going through that same thing right now. Let me tell you how God's showing up for me." Not in a superficial, triumphal, "I've got everything perfect because I'm a Christian" way. Just honest. "Here's what God's challenging me with. Here's how I'm thinking about that. Let's pray about it together."

Maybe it's something you've been through in the past, but just think of your story like chapters. And how can you share a chapter with someone rather than feeling the pressure of sharing the entire book that spoiler alert, isn't done being written yet? And so for you, just bless some people in your life. It doesn't have to include some weird altar call at the end of every conversation, right? There are no megaphones or milk crates involved. No "turn or burn" signs. Just loving people well where God has placed you.

See, Jesus, he's already done this for you. He's just asking you and me to do for others what he has already done for us.

Now, this is helpful. And you're thinking, "Can I take a picture of that? What do I do with that?" I made a version of this for you that's the lock screen for your phone. And you can get it at menlo.church/connect right now if you want to. If you didn't understand any word that I just said in that sentence, Info Central at your campus would love to help you. Or if there's just like a student around you, just start a conversation. Just ask a stranger to help you with it. It might be helpful for the week ahead.

Now Jesus, he was preparing people for a unique experience with him through powerful signs and wonders. But don't dismiss the power of blessing others so quickly in your life, of what God can do with it. I've watched God heal people through this. Restore relationships that people thought could never be restored. Bring hope through simple acts of faithfulness, kindness, and hospitality just like these steps.

Finally, Jesus tells the 72 that we are called to spiritual wisdom. See, Jesus, he goes in the rest of the passage to warn this group of people that if they are rejected, that they should move on, that it's not their responsibility to change the hearts of others.

And that is so hard for me to hear. I don't know about you. I have this dysfunction. My wife Alyssa has it as well. When we go to a restaurant and there is a server, the less that that server wants to serve us, the more we are committed to being best friends with them by the end of our meal. I don't know why. Like, I'm not even that likable of a person, but I am committed to my waiter and I becoming best friends by the end of that meal. I don't know why.

Some of you, you have been investing in the same people for years, and you don't know why, but you're just like, "I'm going to get this one." And you have made it very clear that you're going to get them, and they have made it very clear that they don't really want to be got.

And now I would say this: there is a fine line between persistent invitation and harassment. There are people in your life who God is preparing to be receptive, to go through challenges or a unique season of change and prompting them to ask really significant questions and be open for conversation.

And I would just wait, some of you, for some of those other folks in your life who have just been stiff-arming you relationally for years. I'm not saying stop praying for them. I'm not saying stop caring for them. But I'm saying like don't be so pushy that you lose the long-term relationship opportunity and look for those open doors that God is providing in real time. You may not see them because you're trying to pound down the walls that other people have built up.

This goes for Christians, too, by the way. Some of you, you've been in life groups for a long time, and they're still groups, but they lost their life a long time ago because a lot of people aren't doing anything to contribute to the group. But you can bless one another just like this, even towards other Christians. It's not too late.

Today actually is Group Connect Sunday across all of Menlo, and it's a great day to evaluate how your life group is going if you're a part of it. What you might do to invest more in it over the next year. Notice what I said there is what you might do. Not like, "I have some ideas for our group leader." No, no, for you to invest in your group leader. Or maybe this is the year that you're going to get into a life group for the first time.

If you call Menlo Church your church, you're on mission here. You're serving on a team somewhere. Awesome. I'm so glad. And I believe that probably your next best step is to step into a life group. Life groups, they build communities of hope and growth beyond Sunday because 60 minutes together in a Sunday service is so fun and it's so fruitful, but you'll grow even more when you add community through a life group into your life.

So these weeks, Group Connect Sundays, they make it hopefully easier to learn more and to sign up for information to get engaged in groups this year.

So in a few minutes at your campus, you're going to get a chance to linger in the lobby, go have another donut. Church calories don't count, grab a cup of coffee, enjoy time on the patio, talk with people, real life people who are in life groups right now.

But before you do that, I want you to take a step digitally to get a little bit more information, too. So, just grab your phones and go to menlo.church/connect. You're like, "You use that link a lot. You should just save it on your phone." menlo.church/connect.

And when you do that, it's a page that looks like this right here with a bunch of different buttons that we customize every week that give you sort of the key next steps we're helping you take as a community. And at the very top, you will see a button that says "Group Connect." And then you'll just tap that button. And once you tap it, it will take you to a very quick form.

In this form, it'll ask you some basic information about you, preferences for the kind of community you might be open to in your community here at Menlo. And then you can click submit at the end of it. And if you're thinking, "Well, how long is this form? How complicated is this going to be?" I'll just put it this way: this form took me 60 seconds to complete. And if you're like, "Yeah, Phil, but I'm probably not as fast with technology," maybe it'll take you 120 seconds. But I've already spent more time talking about it than it would take you to do it.

So, you're not signing up. This is not a blood oath. You're just saying, "I'd like more information." And if you do this in the next couple of days, someone at your campus will send you a followup with helpful next steps to think about and choose potential communities for you here this fall at Menlo.

Here's what we all do. We all know people in our life who have gotten older but have not grown up, right? Because there is a difference

between getting older and growing up. And to grow up, you have to show up.

So I hope over the course of this series and maybe over the course of this year, you will think to yourself, "What does it look like for me to really take a step here?" Because Menlo, this is a really important season because just like when Jesus was writing this 2,000 years ago, the harvest is plentiful right now. There are people talking about it all around the country and all around the world. People have been praying for the movement of God in Silicon Valley that's happening right now for their entire lives.

A spiritual receptivity of neighbors and friends and coworkers facing existential crisis or a spiritual sensitivity that something might matter in their life. And I'm telling you, if we would just show up, extend hospitality, and bless people, you have no idea what hangs in the balance if you're willing to do that.

So, with that in mind, I'm going to finish with sort of a little call and response with you. Followers of Jesus have used this call and response tool technique for thousands of years to say, "We don't do this alone. We do it together. Let's lock arms. Let's remember that there is formative work that Jesus wants to do, not just in me, but in all of us this week." So on the screen, you'll see "Phil," that's the part I say. You'll see "us," that's the part you say. Okay.

Phil: Jesus, you sent the 72 ahead of you.

Phil: Make us bearers of peace, not pressure.

Phil: Help us travel light and stay put.

Now everybody across all of Menlo, say this together.

All: When we show up, God, show up.

God, thank you so much. Thank you for the gift of your presence, for the promise of a future with you. Thank you for the incredible work that you have done in the lives of so many people that have brought

us to this place. Help us to remember even now, God, the work that you still want to do in our lives individually and what you want to do collectively, that this is a team sport. Thank you for the gift of these words of Jesus. The same power that was moving through them 2,000 years ago is moving through them today. Help this call that you have given us to bother us this week, to remind us this week, and help us to step into what it means to really show up. It's in Jesus' name. Amen.

Resources -

BOOKS:

- [*The Art of Neighboring* – Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon](#)
- [*Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* – Pete Scazzero](#)
- [*The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* – John Mark Comer](#)
- [*Life Without Lack* – Dallas Willard](#)
- [*Practicing the Way* – John Mark Comer](#)

PODCASTS:

- [*Being Known* with Curt Thompson](#)

WEBSITES:

- [Practicing the Way](#)
- [Art of Neighboring](#)
- [Emotionally Healthy Discipleship](#)