

Computer Generated Transcript - Well good morning everybody. I'm excited this morning some of you are going to see a face you haven't seen for a long time and some of you are going to see a face you've never seen before but we have a missionary here with us and it's it's always exciting when a missionary that was a part of this church we get to be a part of sending them out and that's happened a lot around here we love that but Julie is going to be coming up and she's going to share what God has laid on her heart you go clap for. Thank you it's good to be back. My dad is a pastor here for ten years as I was growing up and as I was thinking this morning in the car it's been a very long twenty years since I've been here. But it is very good to be back very good to see some familiar faces Good to see Phil and Denise Reed here home from Ukraine as they are missionaries. I am a new missionary associates and I am headed to Santiago in Chile. It is a city of six point three million people. And so I'm seeing some well was to put that into a little bit of perspective for you if you take the population of the Twin Cities and you take the population of L.A. and you add them together that's about the same as a population of Santiago Chile so. That's a very large population. And less than two percent of them are even Jellicoe Christians it's a lost city that needs Jesus sixty percent of the population would actually say that they're. Catholic by culture. But only about three percent of the city actually goes to Mass regularly but in the university students about sixty percent same percentage would actually tell you that they're non religiously affiliated. The culture is getting more and more apathetic to religion. I am going to actually work with a university ministry. And it has been going on working with some missionaries from Texas going to work alongside event and actually use some of the skills I learned in college to come alongside them and really build leaders in the Christian community in that university the university ministry there looks quite a bit different than any of ours do because the universities look different. Here we're used to one large university in most of our major cities there they've got lots of little universities part of the same one little campus is spread throughout the city based on department so it's where as you might have your science department over in this part of the city you might have your political science department over in this part of the city and your education department way over here and they're all smaller campuses part of one larger university but that means that the ministry has to look different than what we're used to here so what they have going on is that they have student led small groups on some of these different campuses spread throughout the city one of the things that I will have the privilege of doing is going in and coming alongside of these student leaders and this site pulling them as they disciple their small groups on the university campus is teaching them hopefully to go out and make disciples themselves creating a culture of evangelism amongst the university students there. I also have a chance to come alongside at the same missionaries who have planted an upper class church and really reach out to the people in the city who don't think they need God because they have everything material that they could possibly need which we know isn't everything we need right. Because we need a Savior we need a god and we need a relationship with that and so we're reaching the A fluence of the city. And the ones who have the ability to go in and reach the classes under them where it is much harder for the for the people of the lower classes to actually reach up with the gospel so I'm asking you this morning if you will partner with me in prayer because a city of six point three million people or less than two percent. Are Christ followers is a lot of people. And that's a big spiritual battle they're walking into. I have a sign up sheet in the back by my board and if you would like to sign up on there I will be sending out e-mails with updates on the different things that I do that you can pray for. But I want this to be a partnership as well so if you're really struggling with something send it to me I'll pray for you. But I also need your financial help because I can't get there without it and I can't stay there without it. And I'm going to backtrack just a little bit for I keep going with that tell you one of the biggest prayer barriers is the language. Because. Their language uses very passive verbs don't know if you know this about Spanish or not but. So if you were to knock something down off of a table. It felt that's how they that's how it would be translated into English what they would say say it fell and if you say well how did it fall they just look at you go. It fell. And the same kind of goes for the way you think a little bit where if you were to look at somebody and say I thought you said you would do this where we would say I'm sorry I forgot

they would say same if way. Which being translated into English but say it means the thought left to me. So many of the things that they do. They don't consider that they do them it happened. Very passive verbs and so when you're trying to discuss it with somebody. That makes it pretty difficult because they didn't do it wrong it wasn't their fault. And so they may have grown up in a very Catholic culture but the more and more religiously apathetic they get the more and more understanding of the language. Inhibits them from understanding the concept of needing a savior even more than the fact that they don't need one because they have everything materialistically that they. So if you're praying that's one of the biggest prayer things is overcoming that language barrier to say there is a God that desperately wants a relationship with you that came and died so that he can have that but you need to accept and getting that understanding of a need across is one of the biggest barriers that were like I said. I can get there alone and I could use your help so if you would be willing to give this morning financially to help me get there because there is a city that desperately needs. We're going to continue on in our series that we've we've been going over for the last couple weeks common stories from the Bible as and and that's that's kind of what we're looking at and again there's two main points to all of this as we're going through these stories. First of all I know that some of you in here there are no common stories from the Bible to you you know you have you're new to your faith in you're just getting into the Bible for the first time and so when I say something like common Bible stories you're like well I doesn't apply to me no it does apply to you they will become common to you if you continue in your faith and you continue to read your Bible because these are just the stories that are kind of foundational to the faith you'll hear about them a lot but forgive me if I call them common and they're not common to you for some people they've been here and I'm one hundred times maybe a thousand times for you it might be brand new and that's awesome We're so excited that you're here we're excited that this is a part or that you're a part of this and you can learn from them and so but there's really two main points for why we do this first of all I want you to remember that. There are no you know just extraordinary people in the Bible right we talk about these bible characters as though they're super heroes sometimes you know we put them in stained glass windows you know we call them saints we do all of these kind of things and so as we're looking at them they become people that are really hard to relate to you know because we just think of them as somehow different than us and what I want you to realize as we go through these stories that they're not extraordinary people these are normal everyday people. That had an extraordinary God work through their life all right it's not the person that is inherently amazing it's the God in them that did such amazing things as a matter of fact if you pay attention and you've been you've been kind of watching as we've been talking through the stories most of these people not only are ordinary They're actually like pretty messed up you know like most of them are really know. Not who you would choose if you had a lineup of people you wouldn't go to them and be like yeah that's the one I want you know to be on my team you know most of them are kind of last pick people you know but God did something amazing through them not all of them are that way but God did something amazing it's not the people in the Bible that are extraordinary it's the God of the Bible that is extraordinary and I want you to understand that this morning we need to make sure that we remember who these people are so that we can relate to them and understand that if God is the same yesterday today and forever then the same God that did these amazing things through these ordinary people in the Bible wants to work extraordinarily through your life all right and I want I want you to get that and the second thing is simply this The danger with a lot of these stories is they become so common that one of two things happen either we kind of tune out because we already think we know everything about them or number two we stop really getting into these stories and diving past what I call a Veggie Tales you know level of these things we learn these stories as children and they're taught to us as children in a children kind and a childlike kind of way and that's amazing we shouldn't teach children as adults otherwise they won't understand it but some of these stories have a lot to say to adults and if our understanding of these stories stops at that Veggie Tales level we are missing so much of what the Bible wants to say to us all right and so I just want to encourage you in this place to get into the Bible I had the privilege of giving away two bibles last

week to people who didn't don't didn't have a Bible they understood OK so I want to purge if you don't have a Bible or you've only got a Bible that you don't understand I would love to give you one all right that is something that we we do around here it is such a valuable thing you need to read the Bible on your own if you don't know how to do that or where to start come and talk to me I would love to have those conversations with you if you don't have a Bible I would love to give one to you we want you. In the Word of God You need to be studying this on your own digging in and figuring out what's going on all right so I want to encourage you to do that and I hope that this series does that so we're going to take a look at kind of we're going to kind of take a broad look this morning not necessarily just one specific thing but I want to talk to you about kind of David and his mighty men All right David is a guy that. Many of us have heard of even if we're not around the Bible you've heard of King David he's known as the greatest king in Israel's history and still today he's known as that and I it's amazing as you study his life kind of the ups and downs of his life and but there are these men that surround David known as the mighty men OK And I think that they play such a huge an intricate intra goal I can't even say that word now it's in my head rock. And you're a coal and sure go I thought you said Cole Why are you saying the word wrong so enjoyable part. Of his story all right it's such an amazing thing as you look at as you look at him and so Grohl and that was never going to say that word again because it is in their firmly wrong and I'm going to John it you know where it's in there and you know it's going to come out wrong he played a very important part you know and David's life as as David is is going through his life these mighty men play such an important role in who he is and who he becomes I mean obviously God and David's life is the number one thing but these mighty men play this huge role but most of us you know we don't really know a lot about them we might know that they you know there were mighty men but we wouldn't know their names we would know and honestly the mighty men stories in the Bible are some of my favorite stories in the whole Bible they're really short I'm going to tell you my favorite one and a little while some of you already know which one that is because you've heard me talk about Shamo before but but it's such an amazing thing so David is out and he's on the run right David is a young man we kind of went through this a few months ago and we talked about David but he's a young man and he's on the run from King David he starts as the shepherd right he kills Goliath Eventually he comes into the house of the king and his his music is the only thing that will suit with the king as as he plays for him eventually he starts to become this warrior beyond just the law if he's known as a skilled general and tactician a skilled a skilled warrior he eventually marries Saul's daughter Saul's best friend or Saul's oldest son his heir to the throne becomes David's best friend and Saul becomes a jealous king right Saul is a king that wants to give his throne to his son he does not want David to become the king and so he becomes jealous and he you know David success becomes a threat to Saul and so Saul starts trying to hunt David down to kill him right so David goes from like the pinnacle of what could be hoped to achieve for by a shepherd boy from nowhere. OK to like nothing on the run for his life the most powerful man in the Kingdom wants his head right and so you talk about these highs and lows of David's life and eventually as David is running from the king you can see in First Samuel chapter twenty two is where we're going to start this and we're going to be in the Samuels for a little while here First Samuel chapter twenty two verse one is where this picks up first Samuel chapter twenty two verse one again and I want you to hear that first Samuel is in the Old Testament more toward the front of the Bible if you open it up you know right to the middle you'll hit Psalms Samuel's in the Kings are right in that zone K. I'm going to read out the New Living Translation If you've got your own favorite translation that's cool but if you want to read the same words I'm going to read out of that's the one I go to OK So first Samuel chapter twenty two verse one says So David left Gath OK and escaped to the cave of agile and soon his brothers and all his other relatives join then join him there then others begin coming men who are in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented until David was the captain of about four hundred men. And most scholars if you look through people who study the Old Testament people who have made it their job to study the Bible would say that that's the origin of the mighty man right there. OK when these four hundred men come alongside of David these men become the mighty men of David now how are they

described they're the cream of the crop the top athletes you know what I mean they're the ones that everyone is recruiting. Now they're there everyone society is like trying to hide. Right there and crazy debt they can't pay their debtors which technically means in this culture they should have become a slave OK to pay this off not slavery in the Old Testament at least in Israel wasn't really based on race it was based on if you all this person money and you can't pay him back you work for him until you can pay him back OK and so so he did it's people like that these people who are in great debt these people who are just discontent with their king you know one thing that's really interesting is have you ever noticed if you've ever been in any sort of leadership role or maybe even if you have and people who are discontent with one leader they switch to a new leader and then they're just as discontent with that one as they were with the one they left. Right I mean that's just kind of how people work maybe you've been that person you're like oh I don't really like this leaders I'm going to go over here because I'm sure it's better over there and you get there and you just find a whole bunch of new things to complain about over there too. Right I mean that's just human nature I mean so David's these four hundred people come to David and they are not the cream of the crop right they are not the ones that you would choose to start your superstar team but they come to David and they begin to spend time with him David becomes their captain and you can see if you continue to read through this section of scripture that that they follow David that that David's heart begins to rub off on these men. And then not only are they around David they're seeing David worship God. Right there around him and David's faith begins to impact these men and you begin to see them shape and they be they change from this this kind of lot of misfits. Into the mighty men of David because they were around David. And they saw David's face these misfits become the mighty men and it's such an amazing thing as you begin to watch I want you to turn to Second Samuel now and I'm just going to read one story Second Samuel Chapter eleven it's where we're at and verse eleven there I could have picked any of these stories I mean there are so many amazing stories as you look through here and you see. David in all of all of his mighty men you see guys who you know fight until their hand is so tired it stuck to their sword you know you see people who just chase lions in the pits you know and kill them because they are dangerous you know you see people who father one of the stories that's listed actually talks about how. He only had a club and the other guy had a spear and he still he still takes down this amazing war I mean I could have picked any of these stars but my absolute favorite one is Schama right and it's found in Second Samuel chapter eleven verse eleven I wanted to name our sunshine law but our last name is Kirsten which doesn't sound that weird but if you see it spelled you'll see how weird it is and so I just thought it would be kind of unfair for life for him to have to completely weird names like that so we landed on Titus instead of Schama But this is one of my favorite favorite stories in the Bible and when you read it it's not much but again I just I have a pretty active imagination and it becomes something in my mind in Second Samuel chapter eleven verse eleven says or I'm sorry I just I just talked about the wrong thing that is we're going to come back to that second Samuel Chapter twenty three OK it is where we want to go we're going to get to Second Samuel Chapter eleven eleven or eleven one second Samuel Chapter twenty three verse eleven is where we're at Second Samuel twenty three verse eleven they're talking about the three There are three warriors that even amongst the mighty men stuck out right even amongst them the mighty men of David they were they were the top of the top OK second Sadly all Chapter twenty three verses. And says next in rank was Sharma son of a Jew from Harare one time the Philistines gathered at Lehigh and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils the Israel army fled but I held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines so the Lord brought about a great victory literally one of my favorite stories in the Bible OK those two verses are one of my favorite stories in the Bible most people would be like what in the world are you talking about it's two verses one of my absolute favorite stories so let me just draw this out for you right Schama is put in charge of a group of people and he's told to go guard the beans. OK Go stand on the Hill and guard the beans make sure that the beans are OK all right now I know that doesn't sound like a hugely important job to most of us because we're like what's the big deal about beans right I just go to walmart and buy new ones if mine get wrecked this is before canning this is before modern

preservation things I mean they could drive these means but one of the primary ways that an army attacked another army was to interrupt their food supply right if an army can't eat an army can't fight right that's the idea here and so David says Schama guard the food. Make sure that when the Philistines come they can't get it right and the Philistines come and what happens the whole army decides the beans aren't worth it. And then run away. At this point do you think if Sharma went back to David and said David I was standing on the hill of beans and everybody ran away David would've been like man you should've stayed I really feel like you're shallow would have gone and talked is king at this point and said everybody ran they would have been like what could you do. You know what can you do but see Schama isn't willing to do that because his king gave him a command. And Schama knows that when he fights he doesn't fight alone and so what does he do he stands in the middle of the hill now I don't know what the terrain was like OK but standing in the middle of the hill seems like the worst place you could stand OK like you've got nobody guarding your back you know even a hill or a tree or something like that you know there's nothing guarding your back you have to be able to watch three hundred sixty degrees but he just walks right in the middle of the hill. And he stations themselves there and I love the terminology here he beats back an army. All by himself not quite Sherman does what he can do. He listens to his king he stands in the middle of a field who brings about the victory on this day says the Lord. Brought about a great victory Schama is standing in the field. And begins fighting alongside of and one man on a hill of beans fights off an entire army because God is with him. This is common for the mighty men. Right this is not exceptional Sharma's not even first amongst the three there's a guy who they spend a lot more verses talking about all the amazing things he did because this is just kind of common these guys fought Giants on David's behalf these guys were his generals these guys were his bodyguards David's armies were almost always outnumber if you ever do the math when you're reading through the sections on David they very rarely had a mathematical advantage in numbers OK Instead what they had was God and that was enough but Schama doesn't start as this amazing dude he starts as just what we read about he was one of the people who was in debt or discontent he was one of the people that was no good he was a thief he was the person who wasn't what he was supposed to be and he comes along side of David and he rub shoulders with David he sees what life could be like and then he meets David's God on a one on one basis and that God comes in and does the rest. And now Schama stand in the order of his king in the middle of a field all by himself fighting off an army it's amazing what relationship can do. It's amazing how being and gentle with who around. Showing them who we are how that makes a difference in people's life without David I truly believe that the mighty men I mean they never would have had any rallying point to get to. They probably would have just continued on in their life. But they met David and through David they met David's God and then that God ceased to become David's. And he became their god and now we're telling stories about him three thousand years later such an amazing thing it's such an amazing thing and I want to talk I want to go back to Chapter eleven so this is kind of summarizing at the end of David's life there. In chapter twenty three at the end of his life they're kind of summarizing his kingship summarizing what he did so Second Samuel Chapter eleven were go back we're going to go back to the mighty men stories at the end of David's time it's kind of at the end of who he is there summarizing all these stories Second Samuel Chapter eleven in verse one you can see this is the beginning of one of David's greatest mistakes in his life and it's happened Second Samuel chapter eleven verse one it says in the spring at the time when kings go off to war Davidson Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israel light army they destroyed the Ammonites besieged But David remained in Jerusalem and I kept reading in that section what you would find is one night David went on to a rooftop and he saw a really hot lady taking a bath on top of the roof. That's in the Bible you can read it just to make sure. And eventually he calls her to his side and he has an affair and this woman is not some random lady this woman is the wife of one of these mighty men if you read that list in Second Samuel Chapter twenty three you will see the last one that is listed is Schama that her right and best she is the wife of Schama the hair right all right but in the spring time when David was supposed to be at war when David was supposed to be out with his army fighting a battle when David wasn't where he was

supposed to be and all of the people who are surrounding him who helped hold him accountable his best friends all of these things when they're all gone and David's all by himself David sees a lady on a rooftop. And has an affair and I think that that is very very telling I think that that matters. I really honestly and truly believe. That had David's mighty men been surrounding him on that palace rooftop he probably went to do it I mean because that's how most of us respond right. If our friends are watching. If our kids are watching if our spouses Well you know if there's somebody with us. We won't dive headfirst into something we know is wrong a lot of times. So we're all by herself when it's night time you know or it's early in the morning when you're buyers by ourselves there's a temptation that comes in isolation that many times when we're surrounded by people wouldn't be able to find traction but all of his mighty men his warriors his captains his generals Joab everybody David is surrounded by so many quality people he felt like I don't need to go and will still win so I'm just going to chill at home by myself. And ultimately he doesn't only have an affair he arranges for the murder. Of Schama. One of his mighty men. Really in the Bible as far as I can remember I could be wrong as far as I can remember he's the only one we know how he was other than old age. He Joab to eventually i don't remember. Not Schama sorry you're either Hittite I've been saying Schama. People are really confused now you're either Hittite is the wife or bash even. I'm on fire this morning. All you scholars can take a deep breath now stop being mad at me. Or OK. All right now I'm not going out if I went out I can make mistakes that's fine so David's all by himself all these people are gone. And he makes. Probably that you greatest mistakes he makes now he's prone to plenty of other mistakes in the Bible these two are the two that he's really remembered for. Having an affair with bash. And then murdering her husband. When he's all by himself listen. Many of us Christians are no different in this than anybody else right if you're a follower of Jesus or you're not many of us feel like we're strong enough on our own to do what needs to be done and we're going to find we feel like we don't really need community you know especially some of you introverts you feel like you know I don't really like being around people so I'm just going to spend time by myself you know and you kind of isolate yourselves many of us do this at the worst times of life we experience a death in our life or we experience those kind of things and rather than run to the people that could help us we isolate ourselves we get alone and we allow and we allow that isolation to come in and we just begin to slide away from our faith we make mistakes why on earth would we think that in this culture right in this culture that is that has become increasingly frustrated with the gospel has become increasingly educated with how to argue in those kind of things I'm not trying to say we're were martyrs or anything like that that's that's such an exaggeration that it's out of control right now but you know what I am saying is why on earth are we so proud that we feel like we can do this faith thing by ourselves. And have victory. So many people in the Bible. Even people that did amazing things in the Bible they isolate and then they make a mistake you could talk about Elijah on Mt Carmel you could talk about how he's up there and he offers this sacrifice and it's the pinnacle of his probably his face when he sees God answer in fire and the next thing we see is him run away from a lady a queen who wants to kill him go hide in the desert all by himself and he's asking God to just kill him because he feels like he's all alone so many of us feel like we can go our own way. And I'm here to tell you that is not how we are meant to do life that is not how we're meant to do faith. We are called to community we are called to be with each other to help each other that's why I spend time talking about the David David's mighty men David didn't accomplish the stuff by himself. He was surrounded. By people. That he impacted and then impacted him. And it's so important for us to hang on to those kind of things you want to ask why we do small groups it's because we believe. That life is more successful with other people. If you want to ask why we do so many things that are designed to just get people together and rub shoulders with each other and join in a relationship and get to know each other better it's because we believe life is meant to be lived together that you have a better chance of living your faith out when you are surrounded by people who want what's best for you and will hold you accountable now some of you don't want any part of that and I can't make you want any part of that. But you want to talk about why we do it it's because of this kind of mentality right here none of us is strong enough to do it on our own for very long. Just

not wired that way. We're wired to be together if you don't think that that's true then why would the Bible spend so much time talking about that Proverbs twenty seven seventeen says iron sharpens iron so one friend sharpens another equally Z.X. use twenty or Chapter four is one of my favorites Solomon David son known as the wisest man on earth is an old man and he's looking back on his life and he sees a lot of wasted time and energy OK he sees how he became vain you know he started off right and then he just became vain he started to trust in his own mind the start of the trust in his own resources and he just stopped doing the things God wanted them to do right and he's looking back at the end of his life and he's filled with regret because of so much wasted time because of so much wasted energy because of so many things. That are a struggle for him right there and Ecclesiastes chapter four over seventy says I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun This is the case of a man who is all alone without a child or a brother yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can and but then he ask themselves who am I working for why am I giving up so much pleasure and how it is all so meaningless and depressing two people are better off than one for they can help each other succeed if one person falls the other can reach out and help but someone who falls alone is in real trouble likewise two people lying close together can keep each other warm but how can one be warm alone a person standing alone can be attacked and defeated but two can stand back to back and Conquer three are even better for a triple braided cord is not easily broken the wisest man on earth under direction of the Holy Spirit wrote those words. We're better together. We're designed. For a relationship. And many people use all kinds of excuses why they don't need anyone else. And I'm here to tell you that that is faulty thinking. And is not what will lead to the best in your life can you follow God and make heaven and all the yes you can. But there's more than just you can buy for you. There's more than just living in isolation we are called to each other I want to encourage you I'm going to be talking for just a second here before we wrap this up our Small Group time is coming OK when we're when we're launching into our small groups that's going to be happening in September where we relaunch that we're going to a little different this year OK the last couple years we've started them and we've kind of picked where people go and all those kind of things but here's here's what's going to happen as we go into this thing if you've got an idea for a small group that you're excited about I want you to come and talk to me there are no roads small groups OK you don't just get a start one on your own and be like oh him he'll be cool with me because he trusts me nope not going to happen OK if you have an idea for a small group I want to come and talk to me and we're going to help you launch OK Now there's two things we're in the past our small groups have all been closed meaning that they're supposed to stay together and tighten it and we went through sermon by a small groups if you have enjoyed your small group you need to call your small group leader and say I want to keep doing that OK and you guys can go ahead and keep doing that will facilitate those kind of things that's great if you haven't been a part of one and you want to be a part of one you can go ahead and get a hold of them and do it. Get a hold of me and you can start a sermon by a small group and put them together and you can do those kind of things all right if you want to do a study you need to find the curriculum you're going to do and bring it to me OK I'm going to look at over Believe it or not there's a lot of things out there that don't line up with a. We believe OK so I'm going to be going through these things and making sure lines up with where we stand. But if you want to lead some like that find the curriculum let me know if you want to be involved in a small group that is designed around an activity where you can bring other people in and partner in life that sounds great to me right I'm going to give you just an example of that this is not by any means one thing that you have to do I know a lot of you in here you like to ride motorcycles right sounds great to me for you guys to get together and once a week say we're going to ride for six weeks in a row we're going to intentionally invite people that don't know Jesus we're going to meet together and pray beforehand and then we're just going to rub shoulders with people. OK if you want to do something like that let me know and we're going to take two weeks in September and anybody who's leading a small group is going to be back there in the foyer OK And you can go back and you can see the different small groups that are going to happen and you can join one of those small groups we're not going to put people together you guys are

going to do that if you're a leader and you want to lead a small group it's on you to fill your group OK that makes sense no one that makes sense to you does that make sense if you're a leader it's your responsibility to get people in your group OK so we're not going to sit around sign up sheets like that this time we're going to have people in the back and they can come and do that if you're already doing a small group and you just want to bring people in on top of that that's fine neat back there and go ahead and do those kind of things just let me know where you're at as leaders and we're going to launch into that and we're going to be very very intentional with that all right so I want to encourage you in that if small groups haven't been your thing you need to find another way then to connect with people. Because you're not meant to do life alone listen I want to talk to you introverts for a second. Introverts are not shy necessarily there I would consider Rachelle an introvert she is a person that needs to be by herself to really kind of restore her energy and be rejuvenated but she's not shy if you've been around Richelle you hear her all the time OK She's not shy but she's an introvert some of you introverts you need me time and that's cool I get that but that's not all you need. You need more than just isolation to be everything God has called you to be don't let your personality determine whether or not you are going to grow with other people we are called to each other as followers of Jesus. Because I don't like big groups is not a good reason. OK I get it some of you aren't like me I've said this before and some of you have there's nothing else that makes you not relate to me more than when I say one of my favorite things in life is to walk into a room full of people that I don't know. It's one of my favorite things I love because to me that's just a chance to go hang out with a whole bunch of people I've never met before tell the same stories I've been telling to people who have never heard of before right and meet a whole bunch of people one of my favorite things in life and some of you just threw up a little bit in your mouth because you can't imagine a worse scenario in history like in all of life than that you don't have to be like me to get involved with people as a matter of fact most of you people who are a little shyer than me probably have a lot more deep relationships than I have because you value that and it's not about just meeting somebody wants and have a conversation it's about going deep. You be intentional about that. Because we're not called to do life alone. So I want to encourage you if you've got an idea for a small group come and talk to me all right like I said no rogue small groups you don't get to just have one and do whatever you want that's not how this rolls. I want you come and talk with me we want to facilitate that we want to help you get where you're going. We don't believe that those are important because it's just some fad in the church we believe it's important because we think people grow better in groups if we're going to reach our community through building relationships which is the vision statement of this church we believe that small groups is one of the best ways to facilitate that it is not our job as a church to just come together on Sunday morning and hang out I mean I love this I love being able to come here and talk with you guys to rub shoulders with you to help each other grow in this large setting. But there's more. Our vision is not to be the best we can be in here alone that's part of it we want to want to encourage people and equip people to start in here and then go out there and see people come to Jesus. We want to hear stories about how you started rubbing shoulders with people just like David and through them watching who you are and watching your faith in action there was something there that they needed to have and we will make a difference in this community as long as we're doing that.