

Intentional



“What do you have in your backpack?” August 7, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Sermon Overview: God has prepared in advance opportunities for you to step into. He has and is opening up doors for you to live and share your faith. The question is this: Do you have something to give? Here’s where it starts...sharing and living your faith. Sharing your faith is giving an answer. Sharing your life is living an answer. Join us as we unpack 1 Thessalonians 2:8 and learn to fill our backpack to be able to bless those that God brings across our path.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. Where is God at work around you? What are some ways you can intentionally be a part of it?
2. 1 Corinthians 9:23 (TPT) says, “I’ve done all this so that I would become God’s partner for the sake of the gospel.” What does ongoing “partnering” with God look like?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. When we make ourselves available, God opens doors. What resources can you pack in your backpack to share with others? (ex. A scripture that has blessed you, possessions, finances, hope, time, hospitality, encouragement, prayer, etc.) Which do you feel a special tug in your heart towards, even if it is challenging?
2. How can you intentionally prepare and fill your backpack?

3. What do you have in your backpack that is holding you back from living your faith intentionally? (ex. Busyness, stress, unresolved issues, hurts, unforgiveness, addictions pulling your time and energy, viewing others as interruptions, etc.)

Digging Deeper:

- To cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus takes intentional time and habits of reading His Word, seeking Him in prayer, and listening to the Holy Spirit. Pick a time of day (or set your morning alarm) to read the Bible, share your heart with God, and listen to Him.
- 1 Peter 3:15 encourages us to always be ready to give a reason for the hope we have in Christ. Take a few minutes to think about how you would explain your testimony (short and long version) of how you came to know Jesus, or a story of God's love or healing you experienced.

Practical Application:

- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series – Intentional.
- Join a small group ncc.re/groups to discover ways you can use your talents and passions to serve the various church campuses in-person and online.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).