

Bear Burdens, Bear Fruit

New Normal: Church Renewal in Pandemic

2020-06-28 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Galatians 6:2-5, 9-10

10:00—Welcome, Tallgrass family!

- Konza Strength virtual background.
- Ricky referenced this passage during Tallgrass Prayer on Tuesday morning and I thought, that's what we need for this Sunday!
- **Galatians 6:2-5** ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.
- **Galatians 6:9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

In Person Poll Results...

- We are planning on meeting at Boys & Girls Club when we do gather in person indoors again. We had set a date for July 26th but then COVID began impacting our community at greater levels, the Boys & Girls Club had to shut down because a staff member tested positive and some from the Tallgrass family who had already filled out the poll said they would change their response.
- So we will continue to gather data while planning to meet at the Boys & Girls Club and keeping our Zoom Machine going no matter what. We'll be letting go of our College Heights Baptist Church lease and trying to find a way to really celebrate the two great years we spent with them.
- We will be staying at 10am for the foreseeable future! This is actually an important step in the life of our church.

10:05—Welcome, Sprouts & Miss Elisha!

VeggieTales: God Made You Special—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggpmw9CUDR0&t=27s>

10:10—Mingle Question:

What's an area of life you'd like to grow stronger in?

- Elisha—Quarantine was the mother of self-care.

10:15—

Have Maris share about *Sex & Jesus* group.

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Pray

Galatians 6:2-5 ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

- Burden is anything heavy that someone is trying to carry.
 - The specific context Paul has in mind here is the burden of the consequence of someone's sin.
 - **Galatians 6:1** Brothers and sisters, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him or her in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.
 - **Matthew 23:4** They (the scribes and Pharisees) tie up heavy burdens (religious busywork), hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.
 - Financial weight
 - Relational weight
 - Emotional weight
 - Mental weight
- Bear burdens vs. Bear load—Ditches to avoid
 1. Are you bearing one another's burdens?
 2. Are you trying to bear your own burden alone when you should allow another to help?
 3. Are you bearing another's load that they should be carrying?
 4. Are you bearing your own load?
- My hope and prayer for our church family is that we would grow in discernment with how much to help or not help bear burdens in specific situations so that each person will grow stronger to be able to bear their own load and also carry one another's burdens.
- My hope and prayer for our church family is that we would increase in overall strength so that we can bear the burdens of more people and draw them into an environment of health and growth.
- We need to be in relationship with one another enough to know what burdens we need to help bear and which ones we need to expect ourselves to bear.
- Tallgrass Strong—Tallgrass Church can keep training for Godliness together this fall as we rally around a common cause, in the midst of compelling community, with consistent coaching.

Share *Bear Burdens, Bear Fruit* Scripture Memory card.

- **Galatians 6:10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Matthew 11:28-30** ²⁸ "Come to me (Jesus), all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- **1 Peter 2:24-25** ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- **Ephesians 4:15-16** ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
- **Colossians 1:28-29** ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

I want to walk us through an exercise to help us experiment with gaining strength by stretching us out of our comfort zones. A lot of times we approach the areas we need to grow stronger in with so much pressure and/or anxiety that it's really difficult to take that next right step. My intention this morning isn't to place more of a burden on your shoulders but to help us experiment with gaining strength. I do want us to challenge ourselves to experiment beyond our comfort zones.

This exercise is taken from the Kansas Leadership Center.

Go to whiteboard.

Experiment beyond your comfort zone...

- All the people in the world
- All the situations in the world
- Question 1: What situations are you good at leading in? Who are you good at interacting with?
- Question 2: Imagine asking someone close to you (like a spouse, close friend, mentor, child, etc.), “How should I expand my bandwidth?”
- Question 3: What experiment can you do to expand your bandwidth? Increase your capacity? Gain strength?

KLC Guidebook—Leadership Starts with You (p. 9)

- Expand your bandwidth; increase your capacity; gain strength
- Examples of experimenting beyond your comfort zone...
 - Going into Konza Strength for the first time—I shared about my experience getting into the gym back in August. I couldn’t fathom doing a handstand push-up. Guess what, now I can fathom it and am in fact making progress on it. The Murph Challenge, etc.
 - Spotting someone while back squatting
 - Being spotted while back squatting
 - Spotting Aaron while he front squatted a huge amount of weight. I failed him. “Better I fail with him than with someone else.” He created a safe space for me to expand my bandwidth.
 - I shared with him that I was having a rough week in the gym and he said his lifting had been terrible...but that was relative... and that’s ok.
 - Maddox on his bike.
 - Kate playing piano.
 - Maris and her handstands and yoga.
 - Brubecks praying with their kids
 - Using the Whiteboard on Zoom
 - Someone shared about their anger related to a race issue on the Tallgrass Anti-Racism GroupMe group
 - Elisha making videos for Sprouts
 - Journaling for the first time
 - Someone catching themselves being tempted and responding differently to the temptation
 - Someone responding to their relapse into a specific temptation differently
 - All of these are opportunities to expand your bandwidth, increase your capacity, grow your strength.

24-Hour Prayer is coming up again!

- <https://tallgrass.church/events/2020/07/06/tallgrass-24-hour-prayer-3>
- Ben—I spent my 30 minutes reading and praying through the book of Lamentations in light of the current unrest in our country. I prayed for God to put fires in our bellies for the things on His heart, and that those fires would burn long after the fires in our cities dissipate.
- Karen—What Emily said has prompted an experience that may encourage some of you. I walk early some mornings with a lady named Linda. She likes to stop at a silly little volunteer tree, look at the steeple of the Catholic Church ore yonder and sing her version of classical Lord’s Prayer. It has become quite endearing to me now to experience her spiritual experience.
- Emily—I had a hard time finding the prayer guide yesterday or really anything regarding the 24-hour prayer (probably my error). So in lieu of that, I improvised LOL. I ended up writing out my prayer in journal form (in fact, this is how I ended up coming to faith along with reading Matthew). I would write a paragraph then sit in silence to hear from the Lord. Most of my time was focused around forgiveness, Jesus’

forgiveness for me, the need for forgiveness in the world. I ended it with writing out the Lord's Prayer in my own words.

- David Renberg—I prayed backward through the directory since I didn't make it to the end going forward last time. Prayed for each family based on what I knew about them, and that God would keep our community moving forward in each of the LIFE categories. An hour flew by!
- Elisha—I prayed through the directory and the Holy Spirit led me to pray over specific families who need to be seen and pursued more. He prompted me with some of their possible needs. He confronted me with unforgiveness that I've unknowingly held against Kingdom friendships in my life, and called me to repentance. The morning after my 24-hour prayer time, he led me to read the first several chapters in Exodus and brought to mind many instances where I live like Moses. Wounded, fearful, and self-preserving. He called me out to act in belief in God despite my fear/pride in myself. I am praying for an open heart that is brave enough to do what he is asking.

Experiment beyond your comfort zone...

- Any of the spiritual disciplines
- Any of the “one anothers”
- Relate in a different way than you're used to
- *Personal Renewal Through Fasting (3/29/20)*
- *Personal Renewal Through God's Word (4/5/20)*
- *Divine Invitation to Unbusyness (4/26/20)*
- *Revivals are Built on Prayer (5/3/20)*
- *Caring for the Vulnerable (5/10/20)*
- *Kingdom Friendships (5/17/20-5/31/20)*
- *Pandemic of Injustice (6/7/20)*
- *Church Renewal Through Sexual Renewal (6/14/20)*

Getting into the Productive Zone (p. 39)

- Comfort Zone; Growth Zone; Breaking Point
- Raise the heat...but not too much
 - I recently raised the heat too much for some in the talk I gave on *Pandemic of Injustice*. I pushed us out of the Productive Zone past the Limit of Tolerance.
 - “Leadership is the art of disappointing people at a rate they can stand.” –John Ortberg, *Who Is This Man?: The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus*
- *Act experimentally* resource
 - Possible experiment:
 - What would I actually do?
 - How much of a stretch is this for me?
 - How risky is this for me? (Double bind) What will it cost me if I change? What will it cost me if I don't change?
 - How sure am I that I will learn something?
 - How much effort will it take?
- What is your experiment from this time together today?
 - Drop it in the Chat.
 - Unmute yourself and share it.

Pray

11:00—After Party

- Meet at City Park with just men and then just women
- MCC
- Jardine
- Long's Park
- Do an After Party later in the day—Bill's idea
- Facemasks not required but strongly encouraged
- Maris Deaver—block party idea
- Jenn Geldart
 - I like all these ideas and appreciate the conversation. Outside seems interesting.
 - That's a cool idea (After Parties)
 - I could see outside for the summer and use Labor Day as a meet at B and G first time
 - People wear face masks over 2 years old
 - B&G Club worship night
- Jermaine Dillon
 - Meeting outside
 - Check in on one another
 - Love people well by wearing masks
 - I wear a mask for you and you wear a mask for me. This is how we are community together.
 - Guided play for kids.
- Next week—Being together...physically!
 - Sing together—Dave's song
 - Short devotional
 - Kids stuff—Bring Elisha into this conversation. Kate Deaver can help.
 - Bring food and drink
 - Purchase cleaning stuff
 - WiFi/Hotspot
 - Shade and breeze

The Chopping Block:

Ideas:

- Act Experimentally blog post—<https://edomalleykic.wordpress.com/2014/03/24/intervene-skillfully-act-experimentally/>
- Take a deep breath!
- Checking in in the midst of this COVID-19 outbreak!
- Babies born!
- In Person Poll results.
- **Galatians 6:6-8** ⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
- **Galatians 5:16-25** ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- **Matthew 11:28-30 MSG** “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”
- **Galatians 6:1-10 MSG** ¹⁻³ Live creatively, friends. If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. *You* might be needing forgiveness before the day’s out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law. If you think you are too good for that, you are badly deceived. ⁴⁻⁵ Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don’t be impressed with yourself. Don’t compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. ⁶ Be very sure now, you who have been trained to a self-sufficient maturity, that you enter into a generous common life with those who have trained you, sharing all the good things that you have and experience. ⁷⁻⁸ Don’t be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. ⁹⁻¹⁰ So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- **Colossians 3:23-25** ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

In Person Poll Responses:

- I think this is a much more convenient site since majority of our members come from Wamego direction.
- Let's have life groups, backyard bbq's, and bi-monthly guys/gals outings. (We could even keep online church the way it is and just do a lot better at getting together in-person.
- Also, home bible studies sound good too.
- let's do this thing!!!
- Let's get creative with setup and tear down! For a season we could have people bring their own camp chairs and thermal mugs (with their own coffee or tea inside). We could have a greeting crew meet folks at their vehicles to help them bring their things inside the building and orient them to the Boys & Girls Club. This could be a better use of volunteer hours than setting up chairs that we also have to purchase and store. We can pull tables down from the back of the gym for those that didn't bring a camp chair or who prefer a table. Eventually, we could sell Tallgrass branded coffee mugs and people could distinguish theirs by the variety of stickers they put on it. Just a couple ideas.
- I also think we retain Zoom (and Facebook Live, of course). There's a chance we'll need to go back to shelter in place and/or quarantine as a church if anyone who attends Central Gathering in person is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Recommendation: St. Luke's Lutheran is building a new facility that should be ready soon and will be selling their current facility (I think). We're not sure if you considered that option. Just throwing it out there.
- I'd rather wait and see what data shows as there may be more COVID spikes in the fall when school possibly begins again, which can put our MHK community as a whole in a tricky spot since there may be some who cannot handle COVID as well as others. I'm comfortable meeting in small groups and one on one. Although we did just back from the park so I don't know... -Kas
- Love that funds will support Boys and Girls Club.
- I like the idea of meeting in person, but keeping Zoom or FB live as an option for higher-risk people. I also see us following whatever current CDC protocols are, even if we can't physically distance, the use of masks should be encouraged based on the science and current data we know regarding droplet spread. To be frank, people should be wearing masks during flu season also! If COVID shows up at Tallgrass, I like the idea of keeping the Zoom meeting relevant so people can fall back on that during a two-week quarantine time. This may be our new normal: meeting in person for swaths of time and then having two exclusive Zoom Quarantine Sundays every time COVID shows up at Tallgrass.)
- I love the that our rent would go to support Boys and Girls Club!
- We highly prefer the evening time, as it's what drew us to the church originally. Morning services don't work well with our schedules.
- We're not sure it would be beneficial to move to a place where the rent is higher, the space is smaller, the convenience is less, and there is no storage just so we can have church at 10AM.