

HOW TO BE A CHANGE CATALYST

PART 4 // Bullet Points

- Nick Vujicic's story: Born with tetra-amelia syndrome (no limbs), overcame depression and loneliness through faith and the support of friends in church.
- Emphasize how these friends included Nick in their life and church community.
- Parallel to the story of the prodigal son:
 - Younger brother asked for his father's inheritance and left home, leading to a life of hardship.
 - Upon returning home, the father, filled with compassion, saw him from afar and ran to him.
 - Interpretation: The father is God, ready to embrace us when we return to him.
- Key message: Importance of an orientation towards inclusion.
- Our church should be a place where you can belong before you believe.
- Illustrate the father in the prodigal son's story:
 - Picture him looking to the horizon, anticipating his son's return.
 - Connect this to us looking out for those seeking God.
 - Encourage active inclusion of people in our lives and community.
- Over time, our social circles tend to shrink - challenge this trend.
- Discussion on the next level of inviting - inclusion.
- How can we open our lives to include both followers and non-followers of Jesus?
- Highlight a study that links a sense of belonging and inclusion in a faith community to higher levels of wellbeing and satisfaction.
- Encourage activities that include non-church attendants:
 - Community service projects.
 - Social gatherings (4th of July, Labor Day, Christmas parties etc.), deliberately inviting folks from outside church circles.
- Discuss the puzzle analogy:
 - Our church feels more complete when we include people who don't follow Jesus.
 - Emphasize the importance of gradually introducing them to the community before attending services.
 - Challenge for the coming days: Actively mix church friends with social connections outside of church.
- Example scenarios: Movie night at your house, lunch at work.
- Reiterate the three "I"s: Invest, Invite, Include.
 - Investing in relationships because Jesus loves them.
 - Inviting them to see the good things God is doing.
 - Including them by mixing social circles.
- Closing Remarks:
 - This four-part challenge is only the beginning.
 - Encourage continuation of investing, inviting, and including people.
 - Reiterate the idea that people can belong before they believe.
 - Offer help from the church in their journey as change catalysts.
 - Express gratitude for their desire to be change catalysts.