

Welcome to Hosanna! We're glad you came...

Wherever you are on your faith journey,
you are welcome here!

WHAT TO EXPECT

60-65 min. Worship
Announcements | Offering | Message

GUEST SERVICES

Stop by Guest Services.
Volunteers and staff are available before
and after all services to assist you!
If you are new, pick up a **GUEST GUIDE**
for a quick overview of Hosanna!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayer Room: Stop in anytime to receive
prayer from trained prayer ministers
- Email: prayer@hosannalc.org
- Text: 651.252.1779 (1PRY)

Small Group IS LIFEpreserver™



Three years ago, John and Tracey Graham stepped into Daily Bread Books as newlyweds looking for a resource that might help them stepparent their 3 children together; Peyton, Josh, and Cole, now 13, 19, and 21. They were hurting, broken, and burdened from the emotional toil of the divorce and the strain of trying to successfully blend two families. They selected a book by author and speaker, Ron Deal, entitled *Smart Stepfamilies*. This simple, innocuous event was the beginning of a string of occurrences that led the couple to their blended family small group that John says, was “the life preserver for their marriage and family.” John and Tracey’s small group was where they found a “deep connection beyond what you can experience on a Sunday morning.”

That deep connection was instrumental in helping the couple navigate some big obstacles they encountered: co-parenting with their former spouses, emotional baggage including anger, frustration, fear, sadness, guilt over the decision to get divorced, and worries about the kids and how the divorce would affect them. Their small group helped them not only cope with the

myriad of emotions but almost more than anything, it helped them to feel they were not alone—that others were experiencing the same thing.

John and Tracey received so much from their experience that they wanted to “give back.” They were certified to be facilitators for the Prepare and Enrich profile and process that couples wanting to be married at Hosanna! go through. They specialize in second marriages and have started their own small group of blended families while still keeping in touch with the core group that they hold so dear. Their small group remains a significant support system they rely on. In small group, when praying together, they have felt weak in the knees with the presence of God and tearful in their shared struggles and reliance on God. Through it all, their small group has been a place of safety and acceptance.

John and Tracey still struggle with trying to balance holidays, schedules, the financial fallout of divorce, and more, but they are grateful for the support they receive from their small group and God, who put it together for them.





Experience Community



better together

SERMON | Week 3- Vulnerability
NOTES | January 16 & 17

Better Together

We are surrounded by people, yet known by few. We are more digitally connected than any previous generation, yet lonelier than ever before. God has given us the great gift of “one another,” so the Church is at its best when it is a place of true connection and authentic community. Yet it is possible to be just as lonely “in here” as we are “out there.” In this series, we’ll look at practical and Biblical examples of communities and teams, to inspire and equip us to live life “Better Together.”

EXODUS 17:8-13 (P. 45)

VULNERABILITY _____

“Vulnerability is basically uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure.” Brené Brown

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal.” CS Lewis

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Which is more exciting for you right now: Gas below prices \$2/gallon or the possibility of temperatures above 20 degrees? Why?
2. What keeps people from being vulnerable with others? Why is vulnerability so important?
3. How have people “held up your arms” at various times in your life?
4. Who has God brought into your life to be an “arm holder” for?
5. How will greater vulnerability in your life lead to greater personal victory?
6. How does Jesus model vulnerability for us? How does He make vulnerability possible for us?