

Content

INFORMATION:

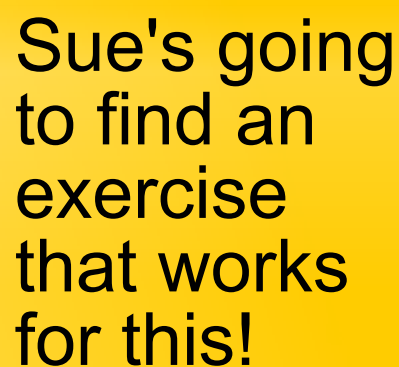
As Rowlett becomes more diverse, Catalyst will be a church of people who are less similar to each other. We will welcome being uncomfortable.

MOTIVATION:

Growth happens outside our comfort zones. A very diverse church is good for everyone because it invites us to step out to "where the magic happens".

APPLICATION:

Empathy Exercise or Perspective Taking



Sue's going to find an exercise that works for this!

INSPIRATION:

When we embrace the other, we are acting out Jesus' good news. We are never more like God than when we embrace someone different from us.

Memorability

SIMPLE:

We're never more like God than when we embrace someone who is not like us.

UNEXPECTED:

Uncomfortable is good

CREDIBLE:

Matthew 5:43-48
1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Ruby K. Payne - *Framework for Understanding Poverty*

Sue's job as an instructional coach

CONCRETE:

Bonding vs. Bridging Social Capital (Ruby Payne)
-- Get to know new ways of thinking
-- Empathy

Incarnation --> God built a bridge btw heaven and earth. God didn't just bond w/ like spirits.

Can't say you can't play.

STORY:

asdf

Outline

Could Be:

Embracing diversity is better, even if it's uncomfortable, because embracing people who are not like us is when we are most like God.

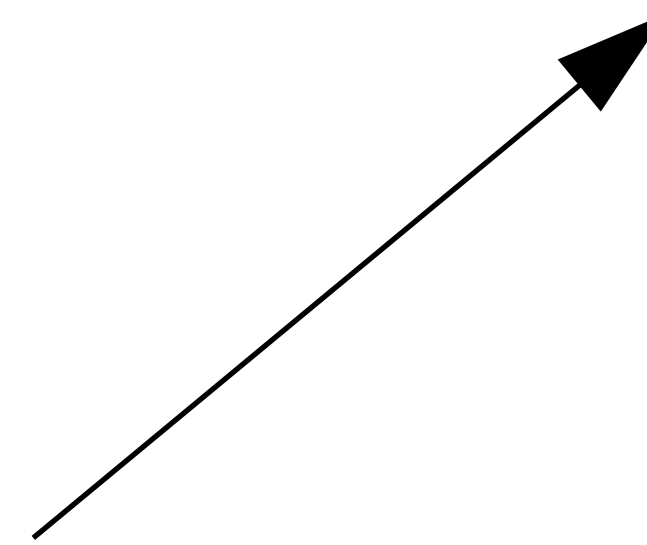
IS:

Sue's first job, cant' get away from diversity. Diversity is inevitable and positive.

In the Church, however, we do a great job of avoiding diversity.

Next 10 years of Catalyst. Next 5 years of Rowlett --> diversity is coming. We can either ignore or embrace.

Ignoring is easier...



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BOND

Comfort Zone actually prevents growth!

- No vulnerability
- No self-awareness (no way to see where I am vs. where God wants me to be)
- No motivation to change
- Expands your support system

No one grows when they're comfortable. It's when you're scared, unsure, in a hard time.

Embracing the other draws us into space where we can grow.

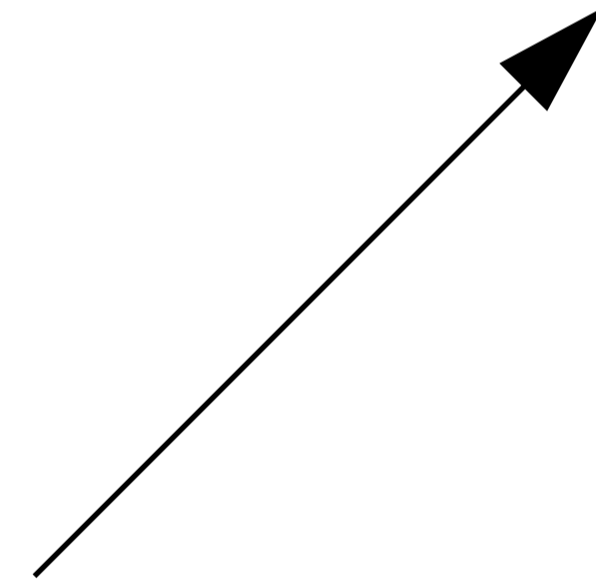
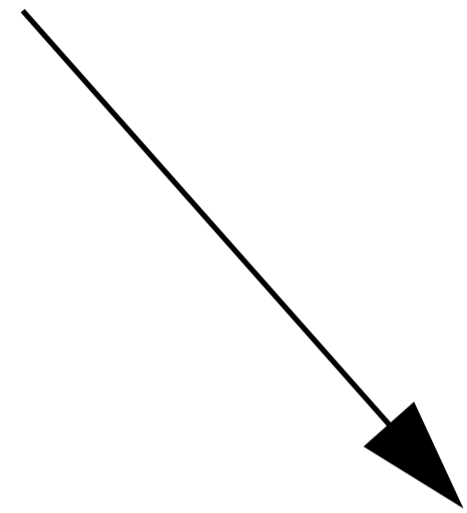
BRIDGING Social Capital --> creating connections

It's human nature to surround ourselves with people who are like us.

- Avoiding conflict
- Affirmation
- Safe

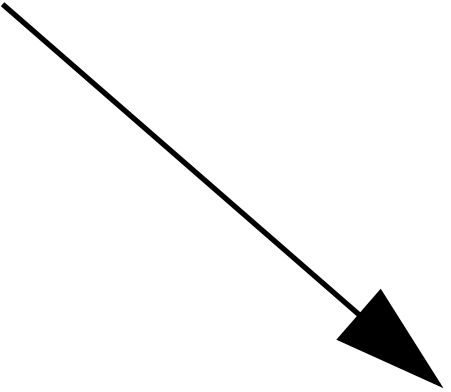
Comfort Zone --> Getting out of the comfort zone is a big hurdle.

BONDING Social Capital --> built on common interests/background/etc.

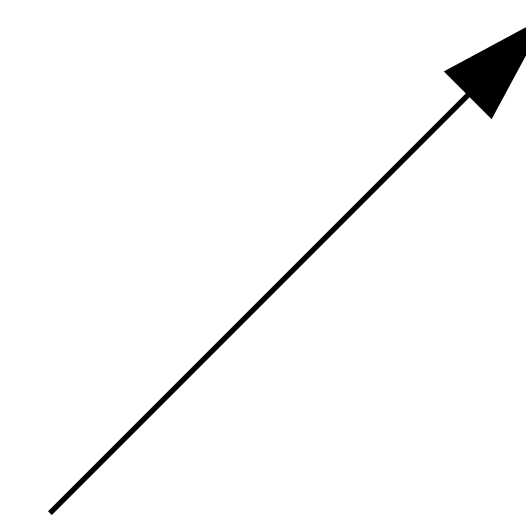


What God does is BRIDGE: Journey of the Incarnation.
Matthew 5:43-48 --> Call for us to do the same.
According to Jesus, it is embracing the Other that defines us as God's followers.

Paul's model in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23: All things to all peoples



Okay... I'll grant that diversity is good. BUT you said that's when I'm most like God.
"Like God" means at church with church people. That's what God does. Right?



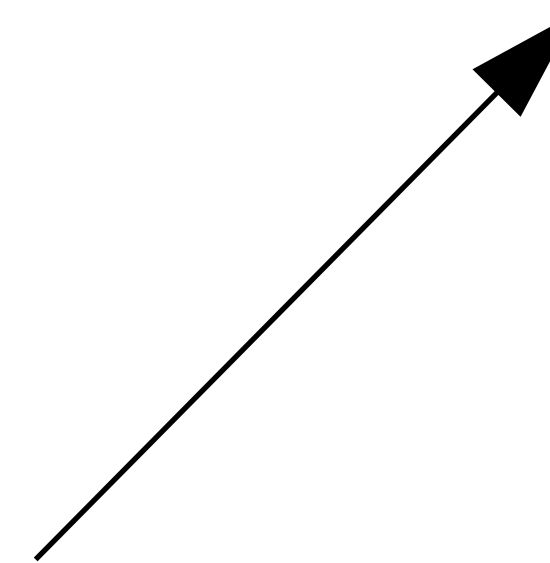
From BONDING to BRIDGING at Catalyst

We want to be a people who's comfortable being uncomfortable b/c that's when we grow and that's when we're most like God.

What will this look like? We have no idea.

Until now, this is who Rowlett has been. We've worked hard and been faithful to God's call to be a church for unchurched people in Rowlett.

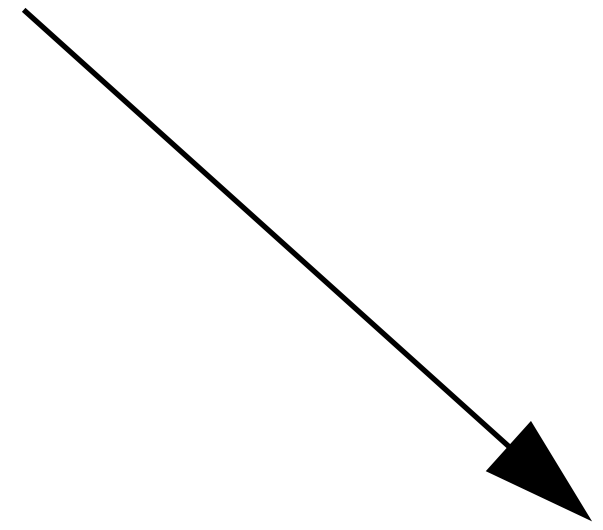
Following God's call this far has prepared us to take the next right step as we are poised at the edge of a big change in our community.



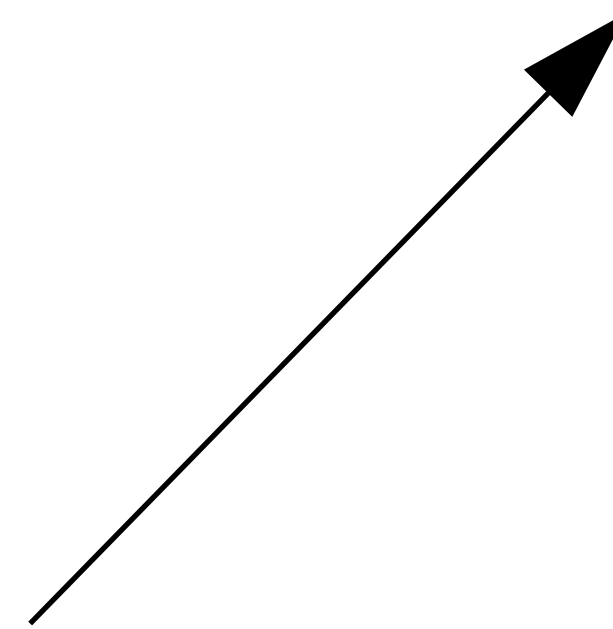
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We know that change is coming and we want to be ready for it. We can take steps now to become more comfortable being uncomfortable.

Empathy exercise



What do you mean you don't know? That sounds like poor planning to me. If you don't know what we're going to do, what am I supposed to do in the meantime?



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Choose to embrace change/the Other/being uncomfortable

- Most like God
- Truly LOVING (core value!)
- Find God's invitation to grow

Stay comfortable

- Community changes, we don't.
- Echo chamber
- Blind to how we need to grow

