

/ by design series study guide

Speaker: Toni Dolfo-Smith / Interview with Rosemary & Jonathan Deroche

SERMON TITLE: Our Journey / By Design

This past weekend at Centre Street Church those who were at one of our Campuses heard from Toni Dolfo-Smith, founder and executive director of Journey Canada. Those watching a service online heard an interview between Rosemary Flaaten and Jonathan Deroche. Both messages were about the journey of discipleship that these men have been on with Jesus, and both messages are to cause us to reflect on our own journey with the Lord.

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: Opportunities to connect as a group

1. Both stories shared this weekend spoke of growing up in the church and having a person encounter with Jesus while either as a child or teenager. Describe a similar experience you may have had where you sensed God speaking to you as a child/teen.

PURSUE GOD: Time that is devoted to the Word of God

Read Matthew 16:24-27

1. How have you experienced God's pursuit or wooing that has drawn you away from sin and into submission and obedience?
2. What are areas of your life do you struggle to say "Yes God"?
3. What have you taken away from either of the messages from the weekend that has challenged you to respond in obedience to God's love for you?

PURSUE MISSION: Seek to be the community of God's people in your community

1. What have you taken away from either of the messages from the weekend that has challenged you how to reach out in love and truth with hope to others?
2. Both stories shared this weekend spoke of how the church did not know how to hold onto both truth and love when it came to a young person sharing of their same sex attraction and how this caused them to distance themselves from the church. As a result of learning more about these topics, how might you respond to someone who shares of their same sex attraction or any other struggle with sin? What would you find difficult about that type of conversation?

THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 16:24-27

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.