



Godly Good-Byes

Godly Good-Byes

Reality of Life in This Place

Saying Hello and Saying Good-bye

- Shared Life
 - laughed and cried together
- Shared Spiritual Experiences
 - trusted God & prayed together

Seasons – Eccl. 3:1 ***“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:”***

Important to do this well, for those going and for those staying”

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Reflecting on Natural reactions

For those staying here:

- feel abandoned & betrayed
- begin to close off, protect your heart
- not communicate how they were important

For those leaving:

- slip away into next season
- isolate yourself, look forward busy with details
- not reflect on growth, offer honor & thanks

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1. Be Real About Loss & Grief

a) stop and identify loss

- Acts 20:36-38 *“And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”*

- life is going to be different

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b) express your heart, what matters

- Acts 20:28-31 "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."

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- Intentional about giving thanks
- Intentional about giving encouragement
- Intentional about identifying markers

c) Commend one another to God

- Acts 20:32 *“And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”*

- placing those you love in God’s hands for the next season

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2. Renew Your Perspective

a) God is in Control

- Isaiah 46:9-11 “for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”

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- God has placed you in this world (Acts 17:26)
- God has prepared works for you (Eph. 2:10)
- God is active and at work

Psalm 135:5-6... “For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps. He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.”

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b) Called to Seek the Welfare of the City

- Jeremiah 29:4-7 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

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c) Reminded in our circumstances

- God's Love is constant – Rom. 8
- God will build His church – Matt. 16:18
- Thanksgiving in all circumstances

“1 Thess. 5:16-18 “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Pursue Discipleship – Heb. 10:25

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3. Extend a Blessing to One Another

a) Recognize God is at work

- Acts 13:2-3 *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”*

- God moves people in building His kingdom

- All engaged, involved, friends

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b) Be willing to send

- 1 Thess. 3:1-3 *“Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's co-worker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.”*

- willing to send as God purposes

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c) Bless them as they go

- 1 Thess. 3:11-13 *“Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”*

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4. Be Intentional

a) You will face

- not the same feeling or faces
- not the way I am used to
- don't do
- miss the gifts they brought

* need to determine to see what God is doing, how He has prepared a way for your growth, where He is calling you to serve.

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b) You will be tempted

- take more time than is healthy
- not do the hard work of grief & engagement
- play the comparison game

c) Determine ahead of time

- purposeful investigation & engagement
- planted by God over preferences
- grow where placed, not just do church

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So What?

1. For Those Sending

- celebrate the season & blessing God granted
- encourage those sent clearly & intentionally
 - affirming gifts and impact on lives
- determine to pray for them
- release them to the next season God prepared
- prepare your heart for loving those God brings

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2. For Those Being Sent

- Be Intentional
 - mark growth and lessons learned
 - thank and encourage those involved
 - affirm gifts and impact of others
- Be Prayerful
 - asking God to replace you and bring others
 - asking for God's blessing & increase here

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- Be Prepared

- to ground and engage in a new place

- not to compare with what was

3. Pray a Blessing

