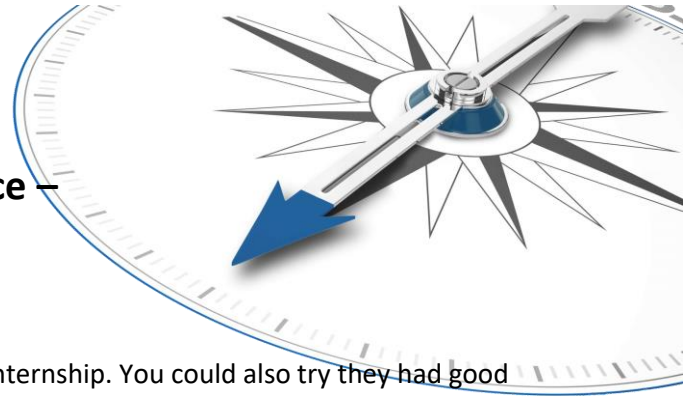
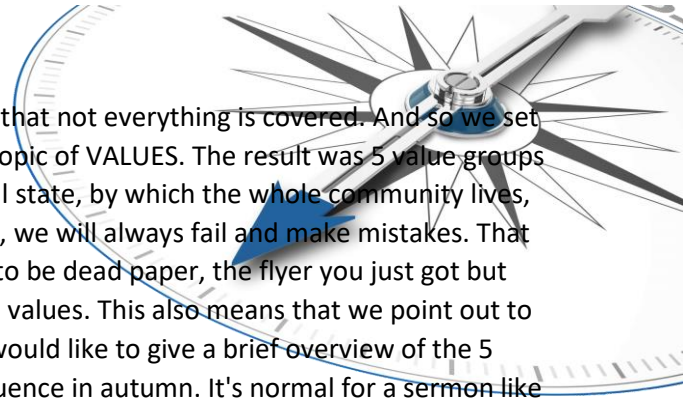


## Live valuable – we make the difference –

Sermon series 09/18/2022



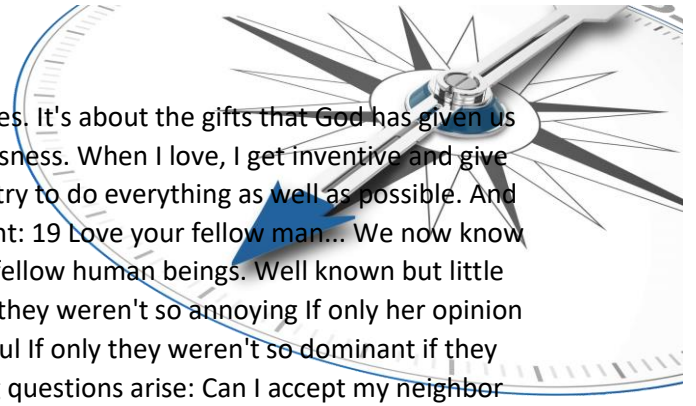
1 Jesus was traveling with his disciples it was a kind of internship. You could also try they had good and bad experiences. But they got to know the practical and real life with Jesus, that she often questioned but also gave a very clear direction. There's a series called The Chosen there is very real and close reports of Jesus and his disciples. This is also how I imagine the Jesus I believe in and love. We want to look at this series in the fall. 2 Trailers 3 A chance to get to know Jesus anew: JESUSnight November 26th Jesus lived very provocatively at that time. Life was very regimented. There were 613 commandments in the Hebrew Bible. But these were not only laws, that a few lawyers knew and twisted but that was lived. Much has revolved around keeping the Sabbath holy and there were meticulous rules about what to do and what not to do. Jesus had the audacity to disregard some of the commandments, to rouse people, to provoke, to get them thinking about what really matters. it had to happen that Jesus with the tradition, the worldview of the time and especially with the people behind it, clashed. These were the Pharisees, Sadducees and the scribes – that was the spiritual elite – So it was not long in coming and there were public discussions: 4 Matthew 22 34 When the Pharisees learned that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered around Jesus. 35 One of them, a teacher of the law, set a trap for Jesus. He asked him: 36 "Teacher, what is the most important commandment of the law?" 37 Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your will, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and most important commandment. 39 But a second thing is just as important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself!' 40 These two commandments summarize everything that the law and the prophets require." The Pharisees were speechless at first, at first. But they soon found their tongues and cried: Crucify him. And they were partly responsible for his death. But they made history with it, even if they didn't want to. These two commandments, which they had provoked out of Jesus, have survived 2000 years of wild human history but also shaped by people and they are just as relevant today as they were then. 5 We build our values on these commandments of Jesus, Values we want to live up to like a compass shows direction. This is the basis for our new sermon series WERTvollleben. We want the VALUES for our community discover to understand and live But why do you need values? For a meaningful and goal-oriented life you need something where you can orientate yourself. A compass. These are values Children need orientation a safe place to thrive. you still have to learn what to focus on in their lives. In our Burgspatzen daycare center we want to convey the values Christian- God plays a role in our lives, ecological - we want to preserve his creation, creative - God has endowed us with amazing possibilities To become a healthy personality you need self esteem Even if our culture is still shaped by Christian values, there is a change in values. What should values be based on? To people's needs? Is everything good that I'm longing for? In political decisions? In psychological findings, what is good for people? In market interests? I'm glad we don't have to do it ourselves. I'm glad we have a Creator who knows our construction plan and knows what is good for us in the long term. Jesus anchored this standard in his double commandment of love. This is what we want and need to align ourselves with and be measured by. This is the basis for the values of our church. A few years ago we wrote down the vision or goals of our church. Who else can remember? 6 Invite to Jesus Grow as a Christian That represents the framework, everything else is included in it 7-10 This included the sub-items • Encounter God • live friendship • Giving help • Be at home These points are embedded in the frame. When we have made decisions as a church, if we wanted to invest something or start a workspace, we always asked ourselves this question: Does that fit into our vision?



11 However, we have noticed that this is still too vague that not everything is covered. And so we set up a working group who has dealt intensively with the topic of VALUES. The result was 5 value groups that cover 5 areas. The values do not describe the actual state, by which the whole community lives, they represent goals that we aspire to. We are students, we will always fail and make mistakes. That is normal. But we can learn from it. This isn't supposed to be dead paper, the flyer you just got but we want to be measured by it. We want to live by these values. This also means that we point out to each other if we just fall into a trap like this again. 12 I would like to give a brief overview of the 5 value groups. We will listen to 5 sermons in a loose sequence in autumn. It's normal for a sermon like this to rush by you can't even grasp it what is being said. That's why we want to deepen the topic in the small groups and home groups. There is material for this that you can get on the homepage. The questions always come later. In the home groups you can also exchange ideas, how all this can be implemented in real life. Where are we already doing well and where are there still growth areas?

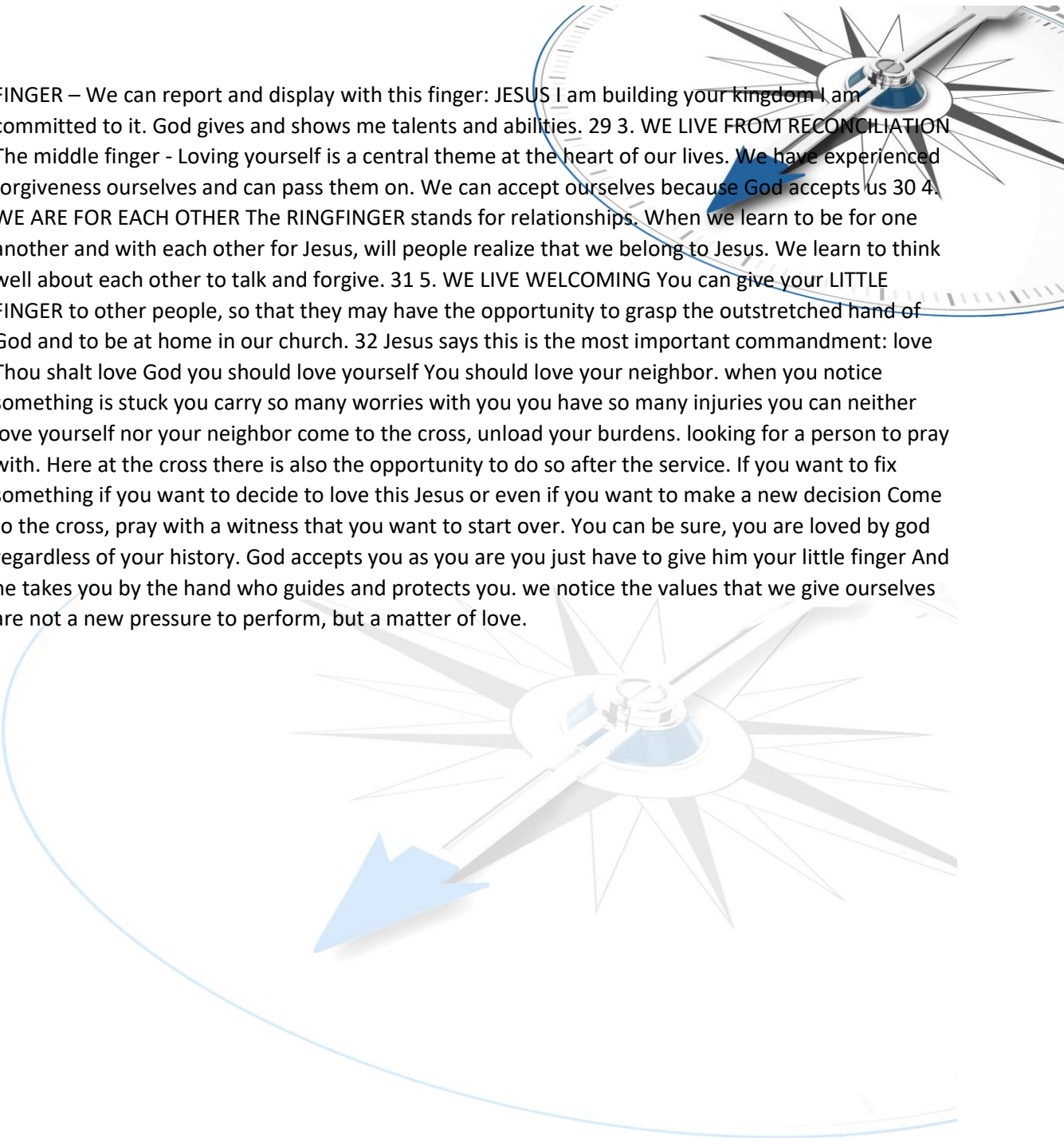
Let's start with the first values: 13 love god This is the basis of Jesus' command, the greatest and most important commandment Thou shalt love God That is not what is meant to follow a few rules belong to a church and pay taxes or to donate something from the surplus but 14 ...to love from the heart. How does it work? We may still understand how to love your partner from the heart, but not always. That means being one with him in thought, in joy and in sorrow. rejoicing and mourning together, do everything to make him happy, because then I'll be happy too, make sacrifices, but also enjoy the closeness. 15 ... love with all your will In relationships there are not only butterflies, but love is also a choice. Then you need the will when feelings don't play along, yes, i made my decision Yes, I'll keep at it, even if I don't feel anything right now even if everything is a burden to me right now. 16 ... love with all your mind Faith and reason, do they go together? It's the most logical and important decision in my life. What would be the point of life otherwise? Without God I would be a slave to chaos, to coincidences. The goal, the desired final state, would be entropy, everything decays. My mind says: There has to be something and I want it. love god This includes our first value 17 1. We live a relationship with God A relationship is dynamic sometimes it goes well, sometimes not so much If you don't take care of them there is a distance, you no longer understand each other. But a relationship can also grow and mature. A stable relationship gives security and security. From an intense relationship you get strength, look ahead and go ahead. In a good relationship you are carried when you're feeling bad. Wow, and this is madness God wants to enter into a solid relationship with me and also with you, not just a date or an affair as long as it's fun, no, he wants to be with you for life, because you are loved by him. You can always be online with him. You can't learn a relationship one can only live and experience them. you will miss so much if God is unapproachably far away for you, a theory or tradition. By the way, Jesus made it really possible to have a relationship in the first place. He has become human for us and can be touched and experienced. And he gave everything out of love for you gave up everything he has had many pains for you and sacrificed his life for you. That makes us so thankful and that is why we celebrate it in communion, praise and worship. Therefore our 2nd value:

18 2. We live our best for God Oops, is that a typo? It can also mean give. But giving is an act you only do sometimes live we do all our lives. Through the experience of the first value, out of deep gratitude and love Do we want to do our best or live for God. Some of you have probably already read: not perfect but excellent and I hear disagreement. Does it have to be that way? Do the services have to be so styled and perfect everything so modern, the music, the light, with all the media... I make an example: Imagine a couple in love, newly married and madly in love. A year has passed and the first wedding anniversary is approaching. The man thinks: I have to tell my wife somehow that she loves you. He thinks about it and comes up with an idea: He rummages in his pocket and pulls out a crumpled receipt and writes in bold letters: I love you. He then puts it on the woman's breakfast plate... That's not possible, we think immediately. Yes, it works. This is how we often relate to God. God knows I love him. I always go to church. It's not for me, it's just for the community. THAT MUST hurt God when he has to experience that we often only give 60%. Jesus gave himself 100% for us. It's



not about being perfect we are allowed to make mistakes. It's about the gifts that God has given us fully committed to him. Half-heartedness shows lovelessness. When I love, I get inventive and give my all. And because many of our church love Jesus, we try to do everything as well as possible. And there is a second commandment that is just as important: 19 Love your fellow man... We now know what holistic love means. And that should apply to our fellow human beings. Well known but little lived. People are too bad that I could love them: If only they weren't so annoying If only her opinion wasn't so skewed if only they were a little more insightful If only they weren't so dominant if they would just get out of themselves, if ... These challenging questions arise: Can I accept my neighbor even if he is different? If he thinks and acts differently than I would? If he looks different than I'm used to? What if he has a different opinion that I can't agree with? Can I treat him with respect? Can I VALUE him even if I don't like him? 20 ... love like yourself I always thought, that it is Christian to love your neighbor more than yourself and to wash the feet of the whole world, but not myself... No, it's different: This over 2000 year old biblical truth anticipated modern psychology: If I haven't accepted myself I can't accept others either. If I don't love myself I can't love others either. This is an insurmountable hurdle for many people: I'll never forgive myself that bothers me so much I can hardly bear the burden life is so hard I'm worth nothing I keep failing, never making it... 21 God calls them: you are my beloved daughter you are my beloved son I want to carry the burden that you can't wear I want to set you free getFREE, become free and you can love yourself again and with that you can also love your fellow man again, because you have become more merciful your heart has grown We want to have another getFREEday on October 29th. 22 This brings us to the middle of the third value: 3. We live out of reconciliation We must realize that I am valuable, blessed and loved. When I've accepted myself I can also accept others. If I'm at peace with myself and my story, I can also have peace with my neighbor. When I know that God has forgiven me I can also forgive others. When I fill myself with good I can become overflowing for others. 23 John 13 34 I give you a new commandment now: Love one another. As I have loved you, so should you also love one another. 35 Everyone will know by your love for one another that you are my disciples." Well we gotta tackle the hot potato even if it is uncomfortable. We know that God loves us we know we can love ourselves. Can we love our neighbor?

24 This brings us to value 4 4. We are for each other It all starts well: talking well about each other. Is that possible with the experiences that you have made over the years? Is the, when you know your neighbor and his mistakes so well? Is the, what if you've been hurt badly? Is the, when the other is wrong and not right? Let's get specific: Think about it for a moment have I been thinking or talking badly about someone lately? If yes. raise your hand inside Jesus please forgive me where I have spoken badly about the people whom you love so much who is so important to you that you died for him. Jesus please let me see him through your eyes please forgive my prejudices that keep coming up in me, that I also recognize the good in him, that I recognize that he also wants the good, let me be merciful and help him please give me the freedom that I also allow his different opinion, Please give me the strength to forgive because I feel hurt by him. Amen This is a value we need to grow on as a church, where we have many open construction sites. This will be a very important service in our church. 25 The 5th value: 5. We live invitingly And we already do We welcome guests. Our church is relevant in our society, our events are modern and you feel at home. Many employees, those who get involved make this possible. We evolved from the backyard to an attractive community for which one does not have to be ashamed, but to which you are welcome to invite. Our wish is that many people find and get to know Jesus with us. That was all a lot of words and impressions. You can hardly remember the 5 values. 26 But God has put a note in our hand – our hand. Look at the 5 fingers we can remember and derive the 5 values well. By the way, the notepads you received you are welcome to take it home pin or stick to the fridge, where you keep seeing him. The values should accompany us in the near future. 27 1. WE LIVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THUMBS up - God loves you, unconditionally, he wants a relationship with you. The thumb is important in order to be able to (be) grasp something and the basis for our actions. 28 2. WE LIVE OUR BEST FOR GOD THE INDEX



FINGER – We can report and display with this finger: JESUS I am building your kingdom I am committed to it. God gives and shows me talents and abilities. 29 3. WE LIVE FROM RECONCILIATION The middle finger - Loving yourself is a central theme at the heart of our lives. We have experienced forgiveness ourselves and can pass them on. We can accept ourselves because God accepts us 30 4. WE ARE FOR EACH OTHER The RINGFINGER stands for relationships. When we learn to be for one another and with each other for Jesus, will people realize that we belong to Jesus. We learn to think well about each other to talk and forgive. 31 5. WE LIVE WELCOMING You can give your LITTLE FINGER to other people, so that they may have the opportunity to grasp the outstretched hand of God and to be at home in our church. 32 Jesus says this is the most important commandment: love Thou shalt love God you should love yourself You should love your neighbor. when you notice something is stuck you carry so many worries with you you have so many injuries you can neither love yourself nor your neighbor come to the cross, unload your burdens. looking for a person to pray with. Here at the cross there is also the opportunity to do so after the service. If you want to fix something if you want to decide to love this Jesus or even if you want to make a new decision Come to the cross, pray with a witness that you want to start over. You can be sure, you are loved by god regardless of your history. God accepts you as you are you just have to give him your little finger And he takes you by the hand who guides and protects you. we notice the values that we give ourselves are not a new pressure to perform, but a matter of love.





## We make the difference

### Questions for the home group:

Join the conversation about these questions:

- What is valuable to you in life?
- What is your heart beating for?
- What do you spend the most time on?

Read the Bible text in different translations.  
Matthew 22:34-40

Talk about it or answer the following blocks of questions:

- How can you love a God you cannot see?
- How can you love him from the heart?
- Is it possible to love with the mind or with the will?
- How can my love express itself?
- Can I love when I'm not right with myself?
- In what situations can I no longer love my neighbor?
- How can I manage to love myself?
- How can I tell if my self-love is exaggerated and selfish?

Questions I can personally answer for myself:

At what points can I not accept myself and am constantly annoyed with myself?

Where are open hurts, resentments, things I can't forgive? It is helpful if you can talk about it with God and also with someone you trust. A getFREEday is also helpful, there you can get rid of loads. (next date 29.10.)

When the inner burdens are gone, the world is much brighter, you can hug it and the people who live in it.

Have you ever experienced this?

Read Luke 6:28 and start a conversation about these questions:

- Can you love someone who speaks ill of someone who is not kind to me?
  - Can you do it? (We are students and can learn and will not be able to do everything right away)
- (Note: Jesus looked deeper, into the heart of the neighbor, can we do that too? Loving does not always mean embracing, considering mitigating circumstances)

Read John 13:34-35 together

Critical self-reflection:

- Can one recognize Jesus through me?
- What can we do to come closer to this ideal?

prayer time.

Confess your own failures. Formulates the desire to become more like Jesus.

Give thanks for the forgiveness you have experienced and ask to be able to forgive.