



No More Sea

Online Service
December 29, 2019

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: The church is US in community, not a destination or location.

Icebreaker: Where did you first recognize community? Describe your significant community now?

Key Verse: *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."* Revelation 21:1-4 AMP

No more sea signified no more isolation for John. He spent so much of his life in exile on the rocky, barren island of Patmos. The water separated him from everyone and everything he had ever loved. When he wrote these words, he was describing his own hopes for his future. One day there will be no more sea, no wall separating us from what we love, forcing us to live alone. We all crave that community.

Even though he is referencing a future that exists beyond our lifetime, there is a significant shift in our world already. We live in a rapidly expanding world where we can imagine and interact with almost anyone, almost instantly. People can experience truth, love, help, support, connection, and growth from their phone, iPad, computer, or Xbox. NewPointe is intentionally leveraging technology and the culture to the people. **In 2020, we will focus more and more on bringing the church to the people.** This will mean a great social media presence, messages available anytime, anywhere in multiple formats (web, social, podcast), in-home gatherings and small groups, practical help/advice/encouragement for everyday life, and partnerships in the community with other organizations that are making a difference. **We will increasingly blur the line between the analogue and digital worlds.** Almost everyone who visits us in person has watched us for weeks or months online before they set foot in a building. Digital experiences and physical experiences are intertwined. **All of this hinges on you.** Because of you, in 2019 NewPointe has been able to accomplish much. You are what opens the door for us to keep on dreaming.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

The church I see will never back down. It won't rest until this town, this county, this state, is won to Christ. The church I see is unified, inspiring, committed, humble, compassionate, authentic, and full of life. The church I see is just getting started. Blessed beyond measure, called to endure—called to literally change the world. How does this statement resonate with you? What part moves you most? Why?

The effective church is people who understand that everybody spends forever somewhere and are not okay to simply stay on the sidelines when so much is at stake. How does this thought motivate you?

We are on a mission trip every day of our lives. Reflect and discuss. Is this true of you? Why or why not?

Where do you see evidence of isolation and lack of community in your world?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How often do you shop online? How often have you attended church online? What has been your experience?

For the last century or so, our entire model has been that you "go to church" as if it were a destination or a place. Now we have new ways to take the church to the world. We can build relationships in the digital world and in the physical world. Is this a new concept to you or a familiar one? How much do you personally check out restaurants/vacation spots/activities online before you try them? Why? How do you think this applies to church going?

How would you answer the questions at the end of the message?

- What would you say to the thousands of volunteers who have given their time and resources in 2019?
- What did we learn as a church in 2019?
- Where is NewPointe headed in 2020?
- Where do you see yourself on the team?

NEXT STEPS

1. Pray for the community every human craves, to be increasingly evident through NewPointe.
2. Ask God to show you how you can be a part of building community from where you are.
3. Commit to pray and serve.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The church is US in community, not a destination or location.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Genesis 2:18

Tuesday: Hebrews 10:24-25

Wednesday: James 5:16

Thursday: Matthew 18:20

Friday: Matthew 9:35-37

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting.)