

*Monday Meet-Ups graphic
Series logo w/email*

God, help me/us/Rock Bridge live on the 2nd Mile!!

{Put this on ½ the screen w/the logo graphic on the other ½ }

What is your 'why'?

=Your because, reason, explanation ...

{come up one at a time after the question}

How big is your 'why'?

Bigger than self? Survival?

Bigger than success (society's definition)?

Bigger than sin (yours *and* theirs)?

How big is your 'why'?

Big enough to withstand opposition & adversity?

1) People need a BIG WHY ...

What if ... our 'why' was not a search but something to be received as a gift?

Jesus offers us a why ...

John 10:7-9

Jesus said again, "Truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

Our 'why' starts with Who → Jesus (Gate & Shepherd)

John 10:10

A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.

Psalm 23:1,5

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... My cup overflows ...

Caution: Do not hijack the word "*abundance*"

John 10:11-13

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life** for the sheep. The hired hand, since he is not the shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, leaves them and runs away when he sees a wolf coming. The wolf then snatches and scatters them. This happens because he is a hired hand and doesn't care about the sheep. "I am the good shepherd. I know My own, and My own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. **I lay down My life** for the sheep. But I have **other sheep** that are not from this sheep pen; I must bring them also, and they will **listen to My voice**. Then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves Me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. **No one** takes it from me, but I lay it down on My own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

Abundance is being loved by God.

His love reflects His **character**, not our **behavior**.

Romans 5:8

But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

{come up one at a time}

His love is **costly**.

His love is **freely** given.

A Christian is someone who's life has been invaded by the holy love of Christ.

{Paul David Tripp}

{come up one at a time}

Functional Identity vs. **Fundamental Identity**

→ **Flip the flow**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the **love of Christ compels us**, since we have reached this conclusion, that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all so that those who live should **no longer** live for themselves, but for the One Who died for them and was raised.

2) Our big 'why' is the abundant **love of Christ.**

{one slide ... include RBCC Logo}

Followers of Jesus // Disciples of Jesus

Love God

Love others

Live sent

From John 10—

“... other sheep ... I must bring them in ... they will listen to My voice ...”

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Everything is from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**. That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the **message of reconciliation to us**. Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, since God is making His appeal **through us**. We plead on Christ’s behalf, *“Be reconciled to God.”*

Matthew 5:41

... if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him **two**.

{come up one at a time}

The first mile is explainable.

The second mile is inexplicable ... unless you have been loved by Jesus.

{come up 1 at a time}

People need a why ... needs to be BIG.

God has given us a why ... the abundant love of Christ.

... so that people will ask us “Why?”

{come up one a time ...}

The need to be loved by Christ ...

- **His love is deeper than we realize**
- **We come to His love through the Cross, not our circumstances.**
- **Often, we need to let Him love us**

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established **in love**, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of **God’s love**, and to know **Christ’s love** that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the **fullness of God**.