



**Purposes & Preferences and keeping it tidy.** Creating solidarity through like-mindedness is pretty easy and nice. And it is a great way to build a world full of walls, mistrust, and misunderstanding. If Jesus stood for anything it was pulling us together and bridging our divides, not building upon them. But that's messy. It's tempting to keep it tidy and contained, just don't peek over the wall and we'll all be just fine. But will we? You will always have preferences, but some of them aren't as helpful as others. This is one you and Fabric need to keep checking in on.

## WELCOME!

Life, for adults and kids alike, is most fulfilling when it is woven deeply with others and that mysterious element we often call the third strand, or "God." Learn more about Fabric at [www.FabricMpls.com](http://www.FabricMpls.com)

**Is today your first visit? Welcome! Come say hi and choose a gift at the ? table after the gathering.**

**Got Babies?** Hang out with them in The Nest (Media Center) and watch the livestream to stay connected. The Nest is also available for drop off (6mos-3yrs).

## WHAT TO EXPECT

**We're glad you're here!**

**Take a seat and get comfortable.**

- Music by Chris Tripolino & the Fabric Band
- Welcome & Kids leave for their own Fabric experience
- Message-Greg Meyer
- A Meal of CommUnity
- Connecting with & supporting Fabric
- More music, closing thoughts and kids return to join their families.

## HEY - BUY SOME SOUP!



35% of proceeds will go to Fabric Kids camp & the High School summer trip!

## NEXT SUNDAY



**Purposes & Preferences and keeping it simple.** It's time to check that preference for handling it on your own and discover what you are part of.

More at [fabricmpls.com/current](http://fabricmpls.com/current)



We're approaching the end of our annual autogiving check-in and **we're asking YOU** to check in with your Fabric giving if you haven't already done so. **Our goal is to increase autogiving by \$500/month through new autogivers or changes for current autogivers. This will help offset a decrease of \$600/month in Fabric's autogiving since January** and help stabilize Fabric's finances to meet our budget. As of today, just 13 households have responded with changes to their autogiving totaling \$276/month. Any amount will help us reach our goal!



**Fabric Kids:** Hop on the road as we navigate through the green lights, speed bumps, and detours of life. More at [fabricmpls.com/fall](http://fabricmpls.com/fall). Just before the message, kids will be invited to head out to join leaders for their own time of exploring, playing, and wrestling with the big ideas of the morning.

We need a Purpose to guide our Preference to DIVIDE when being together gets hard.

The story of Noah and the Ark, Genesis chapters 6-9

*"I establish my covenant with you, that **never again** shall all beings be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth... I have set the rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

Your preference for keeping your world tidy from the impact of other people's differentness impacts how you CONNECT with them.

Dividing from problematic people deals with them. But are people there to be dealt with? Or to be IN RELATIONSHIP WITH?

If we can't isolate from them, then we try to CONVERT them to our way of thinking, behaving, seeing the world.

But these don't work, they create tribes and resentment, not UNITY.

## **FABRIC CORE COMMITMENT: We seek unity in DIVERSITY not COMFORMITY.**

- Ungrounded preferences tend to SORT YOU OUT from others who are unlike you.
- Purposes tend to UNITE you with others who are unlike you.

Jesus lived out pulling people in without conformity strings attached.

- The Roman centurion - Matthew 8.5-13
- The Samaritan woman at the well - John 4.1-42
- Jesus' parable of the Samaritan on the road - Luke 10.29-37
- Jesus' selection of the unlikely bunch of people to be his disciples

## **Jesus had a very specific way of creating unity out of diversity.**

He didn't look for a COMMON DENOMINATOR. A smaller piece behind us that we could all settle for.

He looked forward to something bigger. He held out a VISION WORTH PURSUING.

He gave people a bigger purpose. *Something higher, more satisfying, meaningful, fulfilling.*

Jesus called that purpose the kingdom of heaven. *What's that?*

- In Fabric-ese - Anywhere people align with how the fabric of the universe is truly woven.
- In Bible-ese - It appears when we live according to the will of God.

When we make this move our vision gets BIGGER and our actions get PERSONAL.

If Fabric doesn't rely on conformity to create unity, what holds us together? What makes YOU Fabric?

Greg's audacious claim: ***Fabric is the antidote to the divisiveness that our society is experiencing.***

**WE AREN'T HERE TO FEEL  
COMFORTABLE SOCIALLY.  
BUT TO BE SAFELY UNCOMFORTABLE  
AS HUMAN BEINGS.**

**HOMEWORK:** Name one person whom you would rather not deal with. Practice curiosity, imagination, and empathy. See what happens. Use your Group to help you find ways to find ways to practice them and to debrief your experience. You already know...it won't be easy.