

## POWER: POWER IN COMMUNITY

Scriptures used: [Acts 2:42-47 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

NBCC Director of Discipleship and Life Group, Ja'Mell Agustin, blessed us with a message about the power found in community as we continued our "Power" series this week. She talked about the incredible mix of ways that our NBCC community is expressing God's love. Ja'Mell pointed to the earliest dynamics of Christian community from [Acts 2:42-27 \(NLT\)](#). The early Christians met together, ate together, prayed together, did acts of service together, worshiped together, and added many more Jesus followers. Others were attracted to this beautiful, loving community. NBCC is a modern day example of that exact same Christian community. Despite the divisiveness and toxicity of the broader society, NBCC stands as a testament to Jesus' unifying message.

### KEY POINTS

1. **We live out NBCC's vision in community, and the Gospel (good news of God) is expressed not just through individual lives, but through community.** Ja'Mell gave us many wonderful examples of how NBCC is reaching people who feel far from God, making disciples, building families, and transforming communities.
  - a. **Community Service.** Everything we have is from God. When we give to others, we are not giving from ourselves but from God. Living out hospitality, service, and generosity is an especially powerful way to express God's love to others. One example of this is an NBCC small group that meets at the San Jose building on Friday evenings to make pancakes for the unhoused.
  - b. **Prayer.** There is no better use of our time than talking to God. This is powerful when we're alone, and magnified when we pray with others. That is what our church allows us to do: join hands and pray to our almighty Father.
  - c. **Truth telling.** [Acts 20:32 \(MSG\)](#) tells us that the church is the tool that God uses to make us into the people that He wants us to be. We become more Christ-like by telling the truth to each other. This isn't our own truth, like when someone wants to "tell it like it is." This is Scriptural truth. [II Timothy 3:16 \(NLT\)](#) tells us that it is Scripture that corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do right. This is practically lived out as we first and foremost remind each other that we are God's dearly beloved children, chosen by Him through grace and precious to Him.
  - d. **Forgiveness.** NBCC is full of deep relationships. This means that people don't give up on each other when there are disagreements. We must forgive each other and be kind to each other as Paul tells us in [Ephesians 4:32 \(NLT\)](#). Remember that the enemy of our souls wants to divide us and foster hate. We must live gracefully, not cutting off people who upset us. Three of the most powerful words in the English language are "I forgive you."
  - e. **Testimony & Gratitude.** This is a regular practice at NBCC. We are hearing about the triumphs and also the trials of other members of our congregation. These stories help us remember that we serve a living God. Why? Because our individual stories are a part of God's larger story of redemption and renewal.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - NBCC as a community is full of opportunities to experience God's love. God's love is the "power source" for everything we do. It's up to all of us to find ways to connect, to keep showing up, and to participate in community. Have you experienced the power of God in community? When?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - The church is a special community. It is the Body of the Lord, set apart from the rest of the world. The relationships that we form as a part of the church are also set apart. We are all one in Christ, but the deep relationships we form are not perfect. We will make mistakes, forgive others, and be forgiven. Where do you need to practice forgiveness in your own deep relationships? What other characteristics, like perseverance, are needed to develop relationships?
- 3) **DO** - Ja'mell gave us three simple actions to take every Sunday. First, make sure to fill out [the NBCC connection card](#). Second, show up in person to any of the three in-person gatherings – 9:00 AM or 11:00 AM in Redwood City; and 11:00 AM in San Jose – or online. Third, explore ways to get better connected!