

**“Welcoming the Wanderer”**  
Pastor Tim Nielsen

1. This week, we’re talking about what it means to “welcome home the wanderer.” One of the fundamental goals of the church, however, is that we would be the kind of church and (more importantly) the kinds of people who are building strong enough relationships and bonds to Jesus that folks don’t wander in the first place.

To that end, Tim asked a few questions, which you are invited to talk about right now:

- Do you think that some sort of “wandering” is inevitable to someone’s spiritual journey? Have you ever “wandered?” What brought you back?
- What are you doing to ensure you won’t wander from the faith? In other words, what are you (personally) doing to grow spiritually at home or on your own?
- If you have children or influence over anyone at home, what are you doing together to build stronger relationships with the Lord or one another?

2. Tim talked about the word “blessing” originally meaning “to add value” to someone’s life. **Take a look at Genesis 12:2-3; 17:1-8; and 18:17-19.** How deeply ingrained was it in the Jewish people to bring value to the world around them? The church today, as God’s people, are the inheritors of the calling. Do you see this idea of blessing as an ingrained part of our identity still?

- Where is the church succeeding in this? Where can we improve?
- Have you ever blessed someone
- Have you or your family ever been blessed in this “adding value” kind of way? talk about that time. What made it unique?
- If you know someone who has “wandered,” what could you individually or your group do that might “add value” to their life without pushing them further from the faith?

3. One of the major resources we have at our disposal is the “at-home” program. If you have a computer or smartphone (and I know you do, so this means you), Take some time as a group and look at [www.fbcathome.com](http://www.fbcathome.com). Click around. **Your challenge this week is to download one “recipe card” or “pointers” handout** and do what it says. Maybe you find one as a group that you all commit to doing together.

Then, come back next week and talk about how it went!