

## TUCK YA SHIRT IN

- Max Jacobsen

(This isn't an order, it's a reminder and an encouragement.)

### **1.Connect to God with faith**

You can't come to God unless you have faith – assurance, confidence.

(a) *Act as if God can be trusted* Hebrews 11.1

Can he be trusted? How do you know?

What is the point of having a God you can't trust?

James 2.14-17 How can we show our faith by what we do?

James also says, 4.8, Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.

Does he ever move away? Or do we sometimes feel that he has moved away?

Deuteronomy 31.6, 8 and Hebrews 13.5-6.

If God's word tells us he will never leave or forsake us, what should we believe?

(b) *Start with God's love*

His love is the basis, the foundation of our faith.

Psalm 139 .1-16

How well does God know and love you?

© *Learn from others*

Read books about others' experiences of God

Listen to people who know God

Watch how people who trust God live and follow their example

Do you have an example of doing this yourself?

### **2.Connect to others with grace**

What is grace?

Undeserved, unmerited favour. It is what God gives us that we don't deserve and could never earn.

Give some examples of God's grace, not only to Christians, but to everyone.

(a) *Listen to and value others' stories*

Listen and learn, rather than listen and immediately forget or think no more about what they have said.

(b)*Don't judge* Matthew 7.1-3

We judge through our own insecurity (says Max). What does this mean?

We don't connect to others through judgment, but through grace.

How do we connect to others through grace?

©*Love much*

1 John 4.7-8. What is the source of real love? What is the challenge of verse 8?

Are we challenged by it?

1 Corinthians 13.4-7 What does love do? What doesn't love do? What does love always do?

### **3. Identify, develop and outwork your God-commissioned purpose**

What did God create you for?

(a)*Focus on your strengths*

We all have different strengths, and as we work together we become a team

Don't always take on board what others say about you, know your own strength

– what you are good at.

But sometimes we can learn from others what they see as our strengths as well,

can we? Do you have an example of someone encouraging you in some area you hadn't realized was a strength?

(b)*Play in the playground*

God has created a playground in which you can use your gifts. What did Max mean by this?

He allows us to make mistakes – and we can learn from them if we listen to him.

©*Be courageous* Out in the world, in our jobs, in our homes. Back to Deuteronomy 31.6,8.

### **4. Help others do the same**

(a)*Connect with them* - listen and value their stories

(b)*Connect them to God* - Tell them your God story. They can't argue with what happened to you.

Trust God and use your experiences to help others : 'This is what God did for me'

©*Encourage and support them as they outwork their purpose*

Don't meddle, don't tell them what to do

Encourage and support them.