

"I don't have the energy."

You must connect with God.

To connect, you must plug-in.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain** in me and I in you, you will bear much **fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5

But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23

There is power available in God to love well.

...I have learned to be **content** whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being **content** in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through **him** who gives me **strength**.
Philippians 4:11-13

Then Peter got down out of the boat, **walked** on the **water** and came toward Jesus. *Matthew 14:29*

How do we plug in?

1. We plug-in by trusting in Him.

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of **little faith**," he said, "why did you **doubt**?"
Matthew 14:30-31

2. We plug-in through God's word.

"If you remain in me and my **words** remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." *John 15:7*

"They are not just idle words for you-they are your **life**. By them you will **live** long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."
Deuteronomy 32:47

3. We plug-in through obedience.

"If you **keep** my commands, you will remain in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his **love**." *John 15:10*

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord' and do **not do** what I say?"
Luke 6:46

Will you connect?

Did you complete the 21-Day Fast? We want to hear from you!
Share your story with us at mystory@eclife.org or via the church app.



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

Loving others well takes energy. Most of the time it requires more energy than we can muster up within ourselves. In order to love well, we must be intentional about plugging in to a supernatural power that only comes from connecting to God.

Discussion Questions

1. Most would acknowledge the truth of the matter - love requires action. However, many would say they've given so much they lack the energy to continue. Share a time when you felt like you had given so much that you didn't have anything left.

2. If we want to be able to love well, we must be plugged in to the right power source. Read John 15:1-5. How do these verses describe those who are not connected? Describe a time in your life when you may have felt this way.

In contrast, how does this passage describe someone who is connected?

3. The power available in God allows us to do things we are not capable of doing on our own. Read Philippians 4:11-13, Isaiah 40:29-31, and Matthew 14:28. Are there some relationship struggles present in your life right now that are so big you don't know how they will ever get resolved? If so, share some of the details, and offer one or two solutions that only God could provide.

4. Danny mentioned three ways we can plug in to God's power - through faith (Matthew 14:30-31), by taking in God's word (Deuteronomy 32:47), and through obedience (John 15:10). Share some practical examples for what it looks like to connect with God in each of these ways. Why do these particular methods provide what you need for healthy relationships?

In the coming week, what plan do you have for connecting with God in a way that provides the power needed to love well?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

The Greenwood campus needs caring, loving people to help in the children's ministry as elementary and preschool leaders. You don't need to be a "teacher" to be an amazing volunteer. Just be willing to share your life with some pretty amazing kids. We will help you figure out the rest. If you are interested in serving, please contact Elia Mrakovich at emrakovich@eclife.org or fill out our Children's Ministry application at eclife.org/connect/childrens-ministry/.

We have a team of women who go into our Johnson County jails and minister to women on a regular basis. If this is an area that you are passionate about, or would like to learn more about this amazing ministry, email Debbie Kidwell at dkidwell@eclife.org.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for: _____