

August 13, 2023

Supply Lines: Encouraging Tail Kickers (Galatians 2:11-16)

Meet with your motivators!

Greetings and Connect Card

Hook – What best motivates you? (5min)

- Kindness, pep talk, or push?
 - o What for you?
 - o For me – more of a push.
- When I was young, my mentor named Frank Riley knew how to push me. I knew he cared about me. He has invested in me and been there through some hard times. I was able to serve as his youth intern one summer. I oversaw the junior high ministry. One day, we were at the beach. The junior higher were in the water, and I was playing board games with the high schoolers (my friends). Frank came up and asked me, “Scott, where are your students?” I replied, “In the ocean.” The freezing cold Pacific Ocean! Frank said, “So where should you be?” I groaned, but he was right. I got up and got in the ocean – and had a blast with those youth.
- Today – Tail Kickers.
 - o Paul was a Tail Kicker, and we will be looking at a story from his life today.
 - o In the book – I cover more of his life and lessons from there (you can get at Resource Table).
- Notes in bulletin or App

Prayer

Tail Kickers – Paul and the Galatians (13min)

- *Background
 - o Paul was a persecutor of the church, and Jesus literally knocked him on his tail. Paul saw the light and devoted his life to helping others see Jesus. He was a Tail Kicker!
 - o He was also very relational –
 - His Supply Lines were Barnabas, Silas, Luke, Aristarchus, Pricilla, and Aquila.
 - He mentored Timothy, Titus, Erastus, Tychicus, Onesimus, and others.
 - When he was in prison, he was visited by Epaphroditus, Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, Epaphras, and Demas. Luke and Timothy were with him the most. Luke and Aristarchus were with him on the voyage and shipwreck from Israel to Rome.
 - Over 100 people are listed in the New Testament in connection with Paul.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

- Results? He planted 15 churches, wrote 13 of the books in the New Testament, raised up the next generation of leaders, spread the gospel around the ancient world, and developed a theology and thought that shaped the whole world.
- Look at a snapshot from the letter to the Galatians.
 - Paul was a Tail Kicker – meeting with your motivators will move you forward!

- Tail Kickers believe in you and push you. (Gal 1:6-10)

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⁶ I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News ⁷ but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

⁸ Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. ⁹ I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

¹⁰ Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

- Context – false teachers had come and said the Galatians needed to be circumcised and follow the ritual laws of the old covenant.
 - Jesus fulfilled the old covenant and made a new one.
 - The old covenant was good – but we live in the new!
- Paul did not give up on them – he was upset, but he believed they would get it right.
 - They did – that's why we have this letter!
- Ministry is messy. Life is messy. Tail Kickers bring clarity.
 - **Without support, the mess of ministry will mess up your ministry. P.102**

- Tail Kickers are brave enough to ask and bold enough to speak. (Gal 2:11-16)

¹¹ But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. ¹² When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. ¹³ As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"

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¹⁵“You and I are Jews by birth, not ‘sinners’ like the Gentiles. ¹⁶Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

- Paul cared enough to speak up.
 - He cared about Peter and the people influenced by Peter’s leadership.
 - Peter later agreed with him, and they remained close brothers and leaders.
- Bold truth is better encouragement than pandering.
 - Everyone deals with discouragement.
 - Don’t reject the truth speakers in your life. They give you deeper encouragement.
 - Hannah was once mentoring a woman who was struggling with a very real and recurring sin. This woman’s friends just told her “That’s understandable,” “don’t beat yourself up,” “that’s just who you are.” But this woman wanted a truth speaker in her life. She said to Hannah, “You are the only one who loves me but is willing to say, ‘This is wrong.’ I need that.” Through Hannah’s support, and God’s work in her heart, this woman was able to overcome her pattern of sin.

- Tail Kickers elevate your thinking. (Gal 5:22-26)

- In the new covenant, there is more guidance than commands (there are some clear commands).
- This requires more thinking, discussion, and discernment.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- Sometimes you just want the formula!
 - But life is not a formula.
- Tail Kickers believe in you and push you to think and solve problems.

- What most motivates you?

- Find these people and meet with them often.
- **If you are pouring out encouragement, it needs to be refilled in you.**
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Creating Your Plan (7min)

- There is never an advertisement for “Looking for a Tail Kicker” – but we do want this because we thrive in life and leadership when we have one or two of these people around us.

● *Basics

- Groups, Teams, Events, Mentoring
- Get it on the calendar – coffee and questions
- Different people – one person can’t cover all five areas

● *Four Circles of Support

- *Can my group count? Does church count? What if I only meet once a year but it is really good?*
 - Center circle – monthly
 - Need at least three people.
 - Most of the time is about you (like with doctor or therapist) – the person is investing in you. Kevin did this with me.
 - **All the circles of support help – this one helps the most.**
 - Second circle – crisis
 - More intense level, ready to go when needed.
 - Meet often enough that they already know you – therapist, pastor, Tail Kicker – know how to push you and you know they love you.
 - Third circle – backup
 - Sports teams and our mistakes
 - GROUPS go in here.
 - Could be a person you meet with 3-4 times per year.
 - Fourth circle – disposition
 - Stay curious and humble – some of the important traits for life and leadership.
 - Ask questions more than you tell stories.

● Write a plan.

- *Plan meme
- If you are failing to plan, then you are planning to fail. Support is vital.
- Write it down – it changes your brain.
- *WHO and WHEN?
 - All five Supply Lines.
 - CARD coming in a couple of weeks.

- Home Depot – you can do it, we can help. Not...I can do it and I don’t need any help.

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Punch – Stories (5min)

- I am a church planting coach, and sometimes that includes pushing people. I was meeting with a great couple in the Sacramento area – incredible leaders who are leading a dynamic church. I tried to gently give feedback on some areas that needed improvement. Justin said, “I am so thankful for you because you are willing to say the hard things when they are needed, even when it is tough.” Justin thought I was being tough – and I was trying to be gentle!
- Eli is a rural church planter – a very difficult situation. When asked about Tail Kickers, this is what he said, “Push me but believe in me. I have plenty of doubters and plenty of self-doubt. Most of all, stay by my side when it seems hopeless – that is when I need you the most.” Eli surrounded himself with Tail Kickers – a crew of people who got most energized when things seemed most hopeless – the bigger the disaster, the greater the glory for God when He works. They call themselves HOPE DEALERS – they even have shirts – and their whole community has been blessed.
- *Meet with your motivators! You can do it!*

Benediction – Col 2:7

Next two weeks –

- ACM today
- Missio, Grace Shim
- Back to Supply Lines Aug 27