



Part Four: Raising the Bar // Jeff Brodie // January 30, 2022

Something is happening across our culture: the bar for your expectations is gradually being moved lower and lower as the pandemic goes on. You half expect that your favourite local cafe is going to be closed due to staffing shortages, the fridge you ordered is now five months out from being delivered, or the concert you were looking forward to is being postponed indefinitely.

But what about the church? Have you lowered your expectations for what it means to be the church? What would it take for you to raise the bar on your expectations of the church -- not just on Sundays, but seven days a week?

Scripture: [1 Peter 2 NLT](#); [Colossians 3:11 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Raise your expectations of the church. We are called people in community and on mission to bring the presence of God wherever we are.

Discussion Questions:

1. What food would you say you crave the most?
2. In what ways have you seen yourself lowering the bar on your expectations during the pandemic?
3. How did it go last week having a conversation with someone who disagrees with you, votes differently than you, has a different vaccination status than you, or sees the world differently from you? What did you learn from that experience?
4. What would it mean if you raised your expectations on the church seven days of the week?
5. Read [1 Peter 2:1-12 NLT](#). Have you ever considered the church as a living movement? How does it change your perspective to think of the church as a movement rather than an institution?
6. Jeff highlighted three ways that you can raise the bar on your expectations of the church seven days a week:

- Raise the bar on your engagement with Jesus.
- Raise the bar on your expectations that God will show up.
- Raise the bar on your calling to point others to him.

Which of the three ways do you think will be hardest for you to raise the bar?
Why do you think that is?

7. Jeff shared the idea that "you are a priest mediating between God and people." What about this statement stands out to you? How does it change the way you might look at your daily work?

Moving Forward:

This week, think about how you can take Jeff up on his challenge to move out of your seat. Make a practical plan to take a step to raise the bar on your expectations of the church seven days a week. Share this plan with someone you trust so they can help to hold you accountable to taking the steps.

Changing Your Mind:

"Church is the gospel made visible." - Mark Dever

Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbours. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

1 Peter 2: 11-12 NLT