1. Grace-Filled Space
   1. The beloved community is not a utopia where offense is absent, but it is a grace-filled space where it is transformed, not transmitted.
      1. In our families and in relationships, we are involved in
      2. Not only the benefactors of grace, but the dispensers of grace
      3. A space filled with love, AUTHENTICITY, forgiveness, and balance.
   2. What does a Grace-Filled Space look like?
   3. In a grace-filled community, it’s not necessarily assuming the worst, but embracing what could be. We are thermostats (sets the temperature) and not thermometers (measures the temperature).
   4. Offense wants to make you a container for negativity instead of a free-flowing river of forgiveness.
   5. Amplified Brokenness
      1. Respond from the Spirit that has healed me and the flesh that ensnares me.
      2. Brokenness that is heightened due to situations, individuals, and length of time issues haven’t been resolved.
   6. What does your preparation time look like?
      1. Must be prayed up
      2. Must be intentional
      3. Must put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10 – 18)
   7. We can’t be talking this church talk and not walking this love walk!
   8. Philippians 2:3
   9. Romans 12:17
      1. Slow to speak, quick to listen (silence isn’t weakness
      2. Takes restraint, but also intentional release.
      3. Overlooking the offense is not ignoring the harm, it’s just choosing not to have the offense in control.
   10. Proverbs 19:11 AMP states, “***Good sense and discretion make a man slow to anger, And it is his honor and glory to overlook a transgression or an offense [without seeking revenge and harboring resentment]***.”
2. Beloved Community
   1. This a term Dr. Martin Luther King created
   2. A vision of a just, inclusive, and peaceful society in which love, justice, and nonviolence would triumph over hatred, oppression, and inequality. It was both a spiritual ideal and a practical goal rooted in his Christian faith and belief in social transformation through nonviolent means.
   3. Five Facets of a Beloved Community
      1. Universal One Anothering
      2. Justice for All
      3. Nonviolence as a Way of Life
      4. Reconciliation, Not Retaliation
      5. Moral and Spiritual Transformation
   4. There is no effective community (a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.) without intentional communion (the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.)
      1. Acts 2:42
3. Chapter 2 (Bonus) Takeaways
   1. Offenses are transformed within a grace-filled space.
   2. We can carry grudges as a beloved community because of miscommunication.
   3. A Grace-Filled Space has to have agape love in it in order to function properly.
   4. We are both receivers and transmitters of offense.
   5. When dealing with offense, our motives must be pure.
   6. A Grace-Filled Space must be embedded within a Beloved Community.