

# MORE THAN JUST A CHURCH SERVICE

DOWNLOAD: Part 4

September 28, 2025

Pastor Gary

*"What we have seen and heard we announce to you also, so that you will join with us in the fellowship that we have with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We write this in order that our joy may be complete." (1 John 1:3–4, GNB)*

## Lingering Leftovers of the Pandemic.

Loneliness makes me feel . . .

1. LISTLESS.
2. LETHARGIC.
3. LOW.

There's a difference between SOLITUDE and ISOLATION.

*"But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6, NLT)*

*"Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray."  
(Mark 1:35, NLT)*

*"One who isolates himself pursues selfish desires; he rebels against all sound wisdom. A fool does not delight in understanding, but only wants to show off his opinions." (Proverbs 18:1–2, CSB)*

*“ . . . think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another. . . .” (Hebrews 10:24–25, NLT)*

## **THE LOCAL CHURCH IS HOPE FOR LONELINESS.**

**When I join the local church. . .**

### **1. I get a place to BELONG.**

*“God places the lonely in families.” (Psalm 68:6a, NLT)*

*“Now you are no longer strangers to God . . . but you are members of God’s very own family . . . and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)*

*“For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. . . . Do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.” (1 John 3:11–13, CSB)*

### **2. I get connected to a greater PURPOSE.**

*“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” (Ephesians 4:16, NLT)*

*“Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!” (Ephesians 3:10, MSG)*

*“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18, ESV)*

### **3. I get insight into real TRUTH.**

*“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ.” (Ephesians 4:14–15, NLT)*

#### 4. I get empowered to GROW.

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11–12, NLT)*

*“Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.” (Colossians 3:16, NLT)*

*“For God chose to save us . . . not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that . . . we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up. . . .” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11, NLT)*

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Take 1ST BASE.

JOIN a Small Group.