

COMMIT TO COMMUNITY

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- Celebrate a "win" that you had in the Red Letter Being Challenge over the past week.
- Share a struggle.
- What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or challenges this past week?

Share with the Group the greatest achievement you've ever done alone and the greatest achievement you've ever done with others.

Watch Red Letter Being Challenge Video 2 – Commit to Community

In all four of the Gospels it didn't take long for Jesus to choose his disciples (Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 6:12-15, John 2:35-42). He committed to these men and did life with them.

This week we are looking at the importance of the people you surround yourself with. There's an incredible story featuring the importance of your friends.

Read Mark 2:1-12

In this story, we see four friends carry their paralyzed friend to meet Jesus. It's a phenomenal story of how friends can help propel you to the place where you need to be.

In what ways did these friends help the paralyzed man?

In the video, Zach referenced Dr. David McClelland, a social psychologist from Harvard, that researched the importance of the community you surround yourself with and his findings were that the people you habitually associate with determine as much as 95% of your success or failure in life. Agree or disagree.

What are your biggest hurdles when it comes to surrounding yourself with the right community? Do you struggle more with individualism or choosing the wrong Group of friends?

In what ways have your friends or community hurt you?

In what ways have your friends or community helped you?

One of the great sections of the Bible on the importance of friendship is in Proverbs. Read these verses and ask this question: “How have you seen these verses to be true in your life, good or bad?”

Proverbs 13:20: Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 17:17: A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 18:24: One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 19:20: Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 27:17: As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (where 1 is “very poor” and 10 is “excellent”) on how committed you are to the right community around you. If comfortable, share that number with the Group.

CLOSING THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Say: “The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.”
(C.S. Lewis)

Challenge for the Week: Use one of the following handouts or your workbook to identify the community you are committed to. Again, as we look to Jesus, we see some things in His life that can translate into ours:

- **Jesus' primary relationship was God.**
- **Jesus had a group of 3: Peter, James, John.**
- **Jesus had a group of 12: His disciples.**
- **Jesus had a group of 72: a larger group of disciples that were fully committed made up of men and women.**
- **Jesus had an even larger group of 500 that got to see him during teaching, etc.**

As the group number increases, the time he spent with each of these groups decreases. Fill out the handout to see what this looks like in your life in regard to who is spending the most time with you. Note if any major/minor changes need to be made.

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal truth in our lives when it comes to our friends and what, if any, changes ought to be made to commit ourselves to greater community?





RELATIONAL MODEL OF JESUS

**THE TARGET:
ALWAYS GOD!**

1. GOD

**TIER 2:
YOUR INNER CIRCLE**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**TIER 3:
CLOSEST FRIENDS/FAMILY**

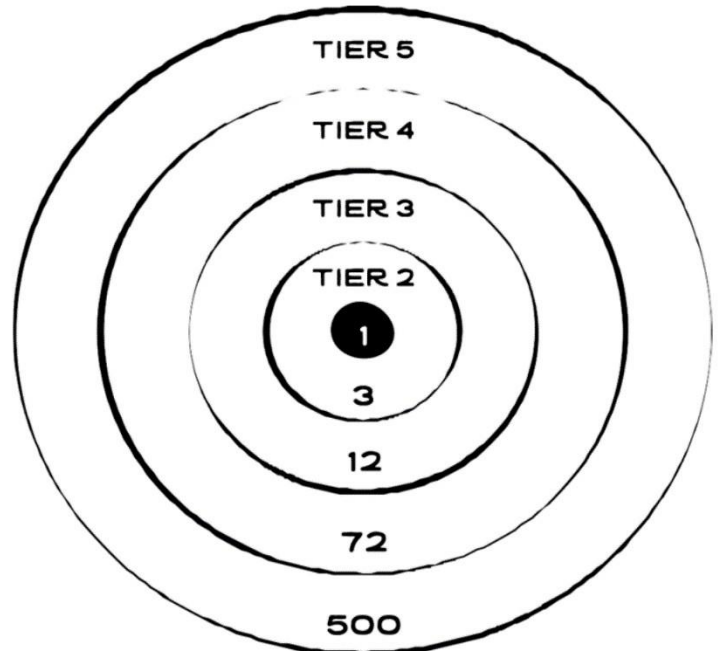
- 1.
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- 11.
- 12.

**TIER 4:
72 REGULARS IN YOUR LIFE**

1. FRIENDS/FAMILY
2. COWORKERS
3. ETC...

**TIER 5:
500 PEOPLE IN YOUR OUTER RIM**

1. SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS
2. ACQUAINTANCES
3. EXTENDED FAMILY
4. STORE CLERKS, ETC...



Fill out the target below and, if you'd like, share with your Group

