

An aerial photograph of a group of people on surfboards in turquoise water. The word "practicing the way" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font at the top. The word "community" is written in a large, white, cursive font in the center, overlapping the surfboarders.

practicing the way

community

Hospitality

Based on last week's Practice, ask yourself:

How do you see Jesus fostering community in the Gospels?

Which of the "ways to foster community" did you practice this week and how did it go?

Overview

Fellowship to us may mean a meal together or a casual social gathering, but to the early church it meant being devoted to living with and like Jesus, together. Not a casual interest in community together, but devotion to it. You and I were not meant to walk with Jesus alone. When Jesus said, "I will build my church", it was never about individuals, it was always about community. It was designed to be an everyday way of life, in the temple (or church) and in homes. The priority was to be with people.

It's not easy. Bearing one another's burdens is hard. Life is hard. Helping others takes energy. Sometimes we just want to disengage and just take care of ourselves, but community cannot be optional. It takes commitment, even when it's really hard, because community is God's plan. It is the way we become the body of Christ. It is the hope of the world.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:26-27, Peter 5:8, Acts 2:41-42, Hebrews 10:24-25

Discussion Questions

Why is it so important that we believe that 2000 years later we should model Jesus' practice of Community?

How have we stopped being committed to each other in Community?

How does a Community become the body of Christ?

Practice

The following are five rhythms of a Community living out God's plan. As you look at these rhythms, discuss how they reflect the scripture that you read and how they form North Ridge Church and your North Ridge Community into the body of Christ.

Practice the Way of Jesus. At the base level, this looks like a commitment to practice the way of Jesus in our everyday lives. Not alone, but together. We believe that the way of Jesus is a way of life. This looks like orienting your life around three goals: be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what he did.

Be in a Community. We believe you can't practice the way of Jesus alone, you have to do it in Community. It is in this place of 10-15 people who live in Community, who eat together, and who share life together that we learn the rhythms of following Jesus. North Ridge Communities are the place we learn to practice the way of Jesus together.

Gather on Sundays. Now, our high value for Community doesn't cause us to scrap Sunday gatherings. We gather on Sundays to worship, remember Jesus, learn from the teachings of Jesus, and press into the things of the Holy Spirit together.

Serve. If you're practicing the way of Jesus, you're in a Community, and you're coming on Sundays, you'll naturally find yourself the next step is to serve together. In community, we serve our neighbors, we serve our city, we serve the poor and marginalized. We want to be known as those who serve; not only outside the church but inside it as well. We are a family and, like a family, we give our time to RidgeKids, SERVE team, Worship, NR Students, hospitality, maintenance, and more.

Give. Lastly, as a Community and as individuals, we give, both of our time and our resources. We give to see the work of Jesus in our city. If you call North Ridge your home, the invitation is to give. Whether you're just starting and it's 1% of your paycheck, time, talent, and resources, or you've been following Jesus for years and you're giving more than 10%, the invitation is for us to grow into generosity by giving together as a Community to see God work through North Ridge.

Closing Questions

1. How do these rhythms ensure that North Ridge Communities become the primary place we learn to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did?
2. What are other ways Communities become the body of Christ?
3. What are roadblocks to the commitment that it requires to live in this type of Community?