

onechurch

bigIdea

Life is not meant to be lived alone. Every success is doubled and every failure is minimized when we choose to do life together in community with one another. Don't believe me? Just ask Solomon.

BIG IDEA: Life is full of meaning when we do life together with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What job have you tackled by yourself that you should have asked someone to help you with?
2. Who was your best friend growing up? What is your favorite memory with that friend?
3. Why is "connectedness" different from just knowing a lot of people? How is it possible for a person to have friends, family, work associates, or classmates, and still be lonely?
4. *Read Ecclesiastes 4:8.* What is the status of the man in verse 8? How materially successful is he? At what cost? What is he questioning?
5. Why does the Teacher see the business in verse 8 as meaningless?
6. *Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.* How does being connected in community bring meaning into life? How does it bring meaning into your life personally?
7. Before joining your first Community Group, what were some of the reasons you gave for not wanting to be connected in community? How would you respond to someone wrestling with the same reasons now?
8. Suppose you made this commitment: "I am going to open my life in a way that allows others to know me deeply. I am going to find some people I will allow to see my deepest joys, needs, struggles, and victories. I am also going to invite them to open their hearts and lives to me on this same deep level."
9. What are some of the possible risks you would be taking?
10. What are some of the unexpected benefits you might experience?
11. Looking back, are there people you feel God brought into your life at crucial times? Who? How did God use them in your life?



MOVING FORWARD

Reflect on your personal connectedness using the following inventory. Ask God what your next step should be toward developing deeper friendships. Ask God for the courage to take that step.

- When something goes wrong, do I have at least one friend I can easily talk with about it?
- Do I have a friend I can drop in on at any time without calling ahead?
- Is there someone who could accurately name my greatest fears and temptations?
- Do I have one or more friends whom I meet with regularly?
- Do I have a friend I know well enough to trust their confidentiality?
- If I received good news, do I have a friend that I could call immediately just to let them know?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12