

Community vs Isolation

Series: Around Every Corner (preview) **Date:** August 15/16, 2020

Intro

I. EXILE THREATENS OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

- Isolation exaggerates our problems.
- Isolation can exaggerate temptation.
- Isolation can make us think we're just fine.
- So, in isolation we need a plan!

II. PLAN TO GET IN COMMUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

- Community helps us keep the faith.
 - Daniel 1:8–16
- Community can aid us in what is around the corner.

III. COMMIT TO A GOOD AND FAITHFUL COMMUNITY.

- Commit first to the faith together.
- Commit to challenging each other.
- Commit to keep meeting.
- Commit to healthy truth.
 - Ephesians 4:15–16

1. Ask who are you willing to commit to specifically?
2. Ask when will you commit to meet?

sermon discussion

OPENING DISCUSSION

As you start your group time today, take a few moments to share two or three things you are grateful for from this past week. Challenge your group members to take time every day to write down 3-5 things they are thankful for and then thank God, the giver of all good things.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Describe a time when you were isolated from others that led you to make a bad decision or to perceive a problem to be much bigger than it actually was.
2. **Read 1 Kings 19:3-9.** The prophet Elijah has isolated himself in the wilderness. During this isolation Elijah is having a “pity party” when God asks, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Where do you tend to retreat or escape to during times of stress, frustration, or depression? In this current season, how would you respond if God were to ask you, “What are you doing here?”
3. God never told Elijah to go into the wilderness, but God still provided for Elijah’s needs. What can we learn about God’s character from this incident? What can we learn about ourselves?
4. **Read 1 Kings 19:13-18.** What seems to be the source of Elijah’s complaint or frustrations? Do you think that’s valid, or was he missing something?
5. We know that Elijah is frustrated because his ministry to the people of Israel did not meet his own expectations. Have you ever made the mistake of putting your desired outcomes or timing above being faithful to do the work that God has given you? What has helped you to serve the Lord faithfully and trust Him with the results rather than try to take control or dictate them?
6. **Read Genesis 2:18.** God created us with the need for community, but He also calls us to have commitment to our community. Being part of a committed community, like a small group, can be both rewarding and challenging. Commitment to community is often challenged when we feel like we are not the one who benefits most from being part of a community. How is being part of a community rewarding? How is it challenging?
7. How can being part of a community be valuable even when it seems like you are not the one benefitting from the community? Is there any specific commitment you need to make to your current community, or anyone that you need to invite into it?

PRAYER

MEMORIZE

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *ESV*

