

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Way of Wonder

Community

August 24-27, 2023

Start Talking

Share a fun memory from when you were younger, and in with a group of friends, whether it was a sports team, a class at school, a group of friends, or any group you were a part of.

Main Idea

We are in Week 4 of The Way of Wonder teaching series. Let's lean and experience the wonder and awe of our God through what Biblical community.

Check out Teaching Notes at the end to help answer questions.

Personalize It

1. Has your understanding of Biblical community shifted in your mind after listening to this teaching? What are the key things from the teaching that stood out to you and why?
2. What does community is messy because people are messy mean? How does this truth impact your understanding of community?
3. Do you agree that the concept of crowded loneliness reflects the current state of our society? Has it impacted your life? If so how and what do you do to fight against it?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. What three key aspects can take relationships further within a community, as mentioned in the teaching? How do these aspects contribute to a stronger sense of connection?
2. God calls each of us to be in community with one another for our benefit and the benefit of others. That's how God wired us. Do you agree? This week do something with a friend that you might not normally do. Go grocery shopping together, go to a local park and walk with your kids, or do something that allows you to spend some extra time with this person.
3. Read Acts 2:42: All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to KOINONIA, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper,) and to prayer. According to the teaching, what is the difference between koinonia and ekklesia community? Do you have both in your life? What do you need to do to foster a greater sense of koinonia?

Let's Prayy

Lord, living in community with others is so rewarding but can be challenging at times because we all are messy people living messy lives. Help us see and experience the joys of living life in Biblical community, as you designed it. Equip us to be a source of encouragement when walking through the good and bad times together. Thank you for designing us to need and want community so we can experience the true joy of doing life with others. We thank you for who you are and all you do in our lives and those around us. Amen.

Key Scriptures

1John 1:6-7 (NLT)

So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Genesis 1:27, 31 (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them... Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good.

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone...''

Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Teaching Notes

The Way of Wonder Community- August 24-27

What is Community and How Do I Connect?

Prayer + Worship lays the foundation for Community + Love.

1 John 1:6-7 (NLT)

So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

In order to fully live out the purpose God has given us, we have to work through our issues!

James 5:16 ... The calling to GATHER is what enables us to fulfill the calling to GO.

US Surgeon General on Loneliness - <https://www.statnews.com/2023/05/02/loneliness-surgeon-general/>

"Research shows that Americans, who have become less engaged with worship houses, community organizations and even their own family members in recent decades, have steadily reported an increase in feelings of loneliness."

Genesis 1:26 (NLT)

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Being created in the Image of God means that you and I have been hardwired by God to crave community...

Genesis 1:31 (NLT)

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

Acts 2:42 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper,) and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to KOINONIA, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper,) and to prayer.

Acts 2:43-47 (NLT)

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

1. Shared Vision

Ephesians 2:20-21 (NLT)

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

Anytime you share a common vision with someone, there is an instant connection because you both want to get to the same place.

2. Common Interests

This is why we do "Free Market" Small Groups.

3. Authenticity

The only way we allow the enemy to win here is when we allow the fear of failure to hinder us from taking that step to embrace messy relationships.