

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Prioritizing Life Together

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

November 30, 2025



Mark 3:32-35 (NLT) "There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, 'Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.' ³³ Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?' ³⁴ Then he looked at those around him and said, 'Look, these are my mother and brothers. ³⁵ Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.'"

- **Jesus prioritizes spiritual relationships formed around God's will.**

v. 34-35 "Look, these are my mother and brothers. ³⁵ Anyone who does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

- **Through Jesus we have been adopted into the forever family of God.**

Galatians 4:4-7 (NLT) "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. ⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.' ⁷ Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."

- **Jesus desires to form us into people of love within a community of love.**

John 13:34-35 (NLT) "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

- **You can't follow Jesus alone: Spiritual formation is a relational process.**

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

"Long-term interpersonal relationships are the crucible of genuine progress in the Christian life. People who stay also grow. People who leave do not grow. We all know people who are consumed with spiritual wanderlust. But we never get to know them very well because they cannot seem to stay put. They move along from church to church, ever searching for a congregation that will better satisfy their felt needs. Like trees repeatedly transplanted from soil to soil, these spiritual nomads fail to put down roots and seldom experience lasting and fruitful growth in their Christian lives." Joseph H. Hellerman, When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community

Robin Dunbar's research showed that we naturally form four layers of community:

- **Intimates** (1-3)
- **Friends** (up to 15)
- **Village** (about 150)
- **Tribe** (larger group we identify with)

- **We need to cultivate spiritual friendships marked by:**

- Depth.
- Vulnerability.
- Commitment to Transformation.

Big Idea: Prioritize life together in community by cultivating spiritual friendships.

- **Join an Impact Community:** A Family of Servants on Mission



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Prioritizing Life Together
#8 of 8 - November 30, 2025

Watch: Session 8 “Life Together” in Practicing the Way
[https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/867741?
session=867752&position=1540](https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/867741?session=867752&position=1540)

- 1) Of the three relational characteristics named (depth, vulnerability, and a commitment to transformation), which is the hardest for you?
- 2) As you reflect on your life and relationships, who has been or could be a “soul friend” to you on this spiritual formation journey?
- 3) What has Jesus done in your life over the last eight weeks, during our time together?
- 4) What's your next step in your spiritual journey, your “next right thing”?

Do life in community

Jesus’ call to community isn’t a theory or an idea, it’s a practice — a relational way of doing life together.

It’s important to worship in church on Sunday and be part of a larger community, but it’s just as important to know and name your “twelve” and your “three.” To cultivate spiritual friendships that last for years.

So our final practice is to identify our intentional community and begin to meet with them regularly.

Identify a community to meet with regularly. This community could be with just one or two others, or a dozen or even more.

We recommend you meet weekly, but it could be bi-weekly or monthly.

We also recommend you share a meal when you meet. The act of “breaking bread” is central to the Christian way. Something powerful happens when we eat together.

At Sequoia we prioritize developing spiritual friendships through our Impact Communities. These mid-sized groups of people are seeking to live as a Family of Servants on Mission. There is a place for you regardless of your stage or station in life. Commit to join an Impact Community so you can grow with others.



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