

**Following Jesus  
Forward Together  
Discover Church  
Mark Phillips  
February 19, 2023**

- The Heart of Heaven: God loves you and wants to be close to you!
- God's Word is different than any other book
- We will only advance as far as our community

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

*“The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18*

*“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” Proverbs 13:20*

- We are better together
- We are designed for dependence on God and interdependence on each other

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-20*

**Five Ways the Church Community Advances Our Lives**

1. Provides **Purpose**

2. Calls Me **Forward**

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25*

3. Exposes my **blind spots** and **pitfalls**

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

4. Brings me **joy** in life

5. Helps me find **victory**

*“Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” John 11:38-44*

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***Five Ways the Church Community Advances Our Lives***

6. Provides \_\_\_\_\_
7. Calls Me \_\_\_\_\_
8. Exposes my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
9. Brings me \_\_\_\_\_ in life
10. Helps me find \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture: *John 11:38-44; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Genesis 2:18; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11*