



Shared Life

A 6-WEEK SERIES ON
BELONGING, COMMUNITY & MISSION

Share the Mission

**Retreating with
God alone
prepares us to go
on mission
together.**

TEACHING SUMMARY

- Loneliness and disconnection are everywhere. Even when we're surrounded by people, many of us still long to be known, understood, and connected in a deeper way. But meaningful relationships rarely happen by accident.
- The New Testament gives us a picture of community where people are more than familiar faces in the same room. They share life together.
- Jesus invites us to move beyond simply asking, "Who is making room for me?" and instead become people who create belonging wherever we go.

ICEBREAKER

- Would you rather spend an hour with someone who talks too much or someone who barely talks at all?

SCRIPTURE

- **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NLT**
- + supplemental quotes from Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*



LEARNING FROM HIS STORY

1. What does Ecclesiastes 3 teach us about resisting the temptation to make either solitude or togetherness the ideal Christian life?
2. Bonhoeffer warns that both community without solitude and solitude without community are unhealthy. Why do we need both?
3. How might time alone with God actually make someone better at being in community with others?

EXAMINING OUR OWN STORY

4. Which comes more naturally to you: making space to be alone or making space to be with others? Which do you tend to neglect?
5. What makes it difficult for you to be quiet and alone with God?
6. When have you experienced a season when solitude with God noticeably changed the way you related to other people?

WRITING A NEW STORY

THIS WEEK'S EXERCISE: **Practice being alone with God.**

Scripture Meditation. Read a short passage slowly and prayerfully, listening for what God wants to show you.

Prayer. Speak honestly with God about what is happening within you, even about things you can't share with others.

Intercession. Bring the people in your community before God by name. Pray especially for someone you find difficult to love.

TAKING TIME TO PRAY

Father, teach us to live in rhythms of alone-ness and togetherness. Help us to love one another well, both when we are together and when we are apart. Amen.

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