

# devoted

growing horizontally

Crowded Loneliness & A Call to Community

INTRODUCTION – Acts 2:42-47 (Koinonia Community)

- ▶ Recent science has confirmed what the Bible has said all along about our need for community

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR BEING ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

- ❶ God is \_\_\_\_\_ in nature

Genesis 1:26 / Matthew 18:19 / Genesis 2:18

- ❷ Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ example

Natural sequence of growth:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (baby)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (teenager)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (healthy, mature adult)

- ▶ Interdependence Continuum  
(Where are you on this continuum?)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Isolated Interdependent

- ❸ Discipleship is about \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:11 / John 17:20-21

OBSTACLES TO BEING ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

- ❶ \_\_\_\_\_ Lifestyle
- ❷ Culture of \_\_\_\_\_
- ❸ Culture of \_\_\_\_\_

CONCLUSION – Psalm 133



Volunteer to Engage in  
72 hours of Scripture  
Reading



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lifegroup questions

## Prayer

Take a few moments to catch up with everyone. Open your time in prayer and ask the Lord to create an environment for meaningful conversations to occur.

## My Story

Think back to when you were a child. Who was your best friend? Why was that relationship so important to you?

## Digging Deep

- 1) What are some of your biggest fears or anxieties when meeting new people? How do you try to overcome them?
- 2) Read Mark 12:28-31 & 1 John 4:12,20. How is our relationship with God connected to our relationship with the people around us?
- 3) Discuss what it means to be connected, committed and growing in a community of like-minded believers. Considering your own gifts, passions and experiences, what does it look like for you personally to be growing in your relationships with others?

## Digging Deeper

- 4) Read Genesis 1:26-27 & 2:18. The 3 persons of the Godhead (Father, Son and Spirit) created mankind in their collective image, which is a community-bearing image. Our triune God is a relational God and created us to have "community DNA." Why is it so important for us to lean into this created design?
- 5) One of the beautiful aspects of the incarnation (i.e., the Son of God coming to Earth in the flesh) is that Jesus chose to set aside His heavenly glory to share life alongside people on Earth. Thinking of Jesus' life and ministry, discuss how He displayed "community DNA?" What clues does His example offer us as we think about relating to those around us?

- 6) Pastor Scott mentioned in his message that there is a natural sequence of growth we are designed to experience in life:
  - Babies
  - Teenagers
  - Healthy, Mature Adults
  - Total dependence
  - Growing Independence
  - Interdependence

Discuss what interdependence means to you, as well as potential obstacles we face when we pursue interdependence in our friendships/relationships.

## Taking it Home

- 7) Some people are extroverts and get their batteries recharged by being with others. Other people tend to be more introverted and recharge their batteries alone, with a book or hobby, or perhaps a few friends. Where do you fall on this Extrovert / Introvert spectrum?

5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5  
Extrovert Introvert

- 8) Read Acts 2:42-47. You may also want to take a moment to quickly review the ONE ANOTHER COMMANDMENTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT that were sent to you by email this week. (Don't worry if you forgot to bring the list, but try to remember some of these community commands.) What was it about the ONE-ANOTHER COMMUNITY of these first believers that made them so magnetic and counter-cultural?
- 9) Why is it so important for us to fight against the loneliness (even crowded loneliness!) and isolation so prevalent in our culture today? List one thing you can do this week which might encourage someone else to risk a little with regard to their need for one-another community.

## Praying Together

Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Ask if there are any prayer needs or burdens in your group and then lift those needs up to God in prayer. Pray that God would bless your journey into friendship and one-another community.