

The Journey

Don't do it alone

Nat kicked it off with a message....Lets Go....taking the first step

Last week Doug talked about Road Trip....Where we are going....
Timely as we celebrated our 18 yr birthday as a church!

The Journey: Don't Go Alone

Life is a Journey....and as we are moving through life
we are not meant to do it alone

\Have you ever taken a Road Trip with friends?

The Trip can be fun, memorable with other people
The driving isn't the rewarding part...it's who you do it with!

LIFE IS NOT AS FULFILLING BY YOURSELF

YOU WERE DESIGNED FOR COMMUNITY

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.”

You might be like...yeah I've heard that verse...its about marriage.

No it is more than that....
It is about human need for relationship/ community/ connection

This is the first time in the creation account that God says something is *not good*.

Everything else—light, land, sea, animals—was good.

But isolation? *Not good*.

Being Alone? Not Good

Even before sin entered the world,

God recognized that solitude was not His intention for humanity

God is a relational being (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
and we are made in His image
Even in his own being he is 3 in 1
This is literally how he made us!

You and I were hardwired for community—emotionally, spiritually, and physically.
In a world that prizes independence and self-sufficiency,
God says, "No, you need each other."

If you have been around you know I'm an introvert
I understand a desire for solitude

Solitude is a healthy way for an introvert to recharge
BUT it is not a healthy way to live
Not how we were designed

We were designed to need each other.....and it makes us stronger
WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Again this is a verse used for many weddings but it is so much more than that
It is Scripture explaining the benefits of HOW HE MADE US.

Life is a journey full of challenges,
not a straight road
not always an easy road

This passage illustrates the practical strength of community:

- Better return for work → effectiveness
- Help when we fall → support
- Warmth and protection → comfort
- Strength in numbers → resilience

The imagery of a “three-stranded cord” says we are stronger together

- Life lived in community with others is more durable

The Truth is You will stumble at times

- You will face discouragement
- Temptation
- Even spiritual burnout

God made us to lean into others during these times

- It is not just how he made us
- but it is simply practical!!

This is why Life Groups/ Life Teams matter!!!

- We don't just need church attendance
- We need church connection

We must Keep Getting Smaller.....Smaller Groups= More relationships

The Bible Gives us instruction on how to live as Christians.

A common Them is “ ONE TO ANOTHER”

Scripture emphasizes mutual actions within the community

These "one another" commands, found throughout the New Testament form a foundational framework for life

- loving one another (John 13:34)
- serving one another (Galatians 5:13)
- encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24)
- forgiving one another (Colossians 3:13)

"You can't one-another yourself."

(Love one another, serve one another, carry one another's burdens... requires others!)

WE REFLECT CHRIST THROUGH COMMUNITY

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV) The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The early Church wasn't just a Sunday meeting.

It was a radical, relational, daily life-sharing movement.

They devoted themselves—not casually, but deeply—to:

- Teaching (truth)
- Fellowship (relationship)
- Communion and meals (Closeness)
- Prayer (dependence on God)

As they lived this way, God moved among them, and others were drawn in

When we live in biblical community, we mirror the nature of God—

We model unity in diversity, love in action, kindness, grace for others

Community isn't just for us, it's part of our witness to a lonely, fractured world

We see that fracture all too well after this week....

A world that needs Jesus

Do the Journey with others....Shows the Love of Jesus

It shows who he is and how life can be lived through him

THE JOURNEY IS BETTER TOGETHER (KEYS START)

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 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.

This is simple instruction for how to live

God never intended for you to journey alone

This is what LifeGroups are all about....connecting with others!

This is what LifeTeams are about....Connecting with others by serving!

I know the the excuses....trust me

The list is long

Will people let you down....yes....because they are people

It doesn't mean we should isolate from them

We let Grace cover and keep going!

Community isn't always easy—but it's always worth it!!!

The people around you are not just background characters in your story—

they're God's provision for your growth, your healing, and your mission

We are intentionally creating space and opportunity for connection

We are ending today with Mingler

If you aren't familiar, don't worry! There is food!!

We are finishing a bit early to give you time to learn about our Life Groups

There are table set up in the Lobby with LifeGroup leaders ready to answer questions

Go through the booklet!!

Challenge:

Get connected with a group today!!

If you never have, make this your first

You have before... been there, done that

Do it again!