



NEW
RIVER

Sunday Sermon

WHY CHURCH?

Part II: The Gathering

Sunday, November 9



Why Church?

Sunday, November 2

*“The lessons aren’t about wealth or fame or working harder and harder. The clearest message that we get from this...study is this: **good relationships** keep us happier and healthier. Period.”*

*–Robert Waldinger
(Current Director for “Harvard Study of Adult Development”)*

Are we in a “loneliness epidemic”?

46% of Americans feel alone

43% feel their relationships lack meaning

–Cigna Study

13 Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. 14 Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles.

MARK 3:13-14

*31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them.
32 There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you."*

MARK 3:31-32

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."

MARK 3:33-35

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer (“Life Together”)

“Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.”

–Dietrich Bonhoeffer (“Life Together”)

Dunbar's Circles

1-5 Intimate Friends

10-15 Close Friends

150 Friends

