

“Together is a critical ingredient to God’s purpose and will for your life”

Conversation Starters:

- 1.) What does “together” mean to you?
- 2.) What do you think is the importance of being together?
- 3.) What are some losses, disadvantages, or injuries that can occur for not being together?

Review / Reflect:

Ask your group members to share their favorite points from the sermon, what stood out to them, a phrase or moment from the sermon they related to the most, or question they have. If your members have a hard time remembering, share your notes and favorite points.

- **The root structure of a Redwood Tree is shallow. The roots sustain the tree not because they are deep, but because they are connected with the root structures of the other Redwood Trees.**
- Your quality of life isn’t just dependent upon **what** you do, but **who** you do it with. The “what” isn’t going to matter if you’ve got the wrong “who.” **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** (*Ecclesiastes exemplifies Teams & Groups.*)

Three Truths About Being Together:

- 1.) Together is **God’s plan**. (*Alone is not God’s plan.*) **Hebrews 10:25 TEV**
 - 2.) Together isn’t always **easy**. (*Together can be messy. Some of our biggest wounds and hurts come from other people. The enemies plan is to thwart community through isolation and by getting you around the wrong community.*) **1st Corinthians 1:10 MSG**
 - 3.) Together takes a **choice**. (*Choose to be vulnerable.*)
- *Jesus’ call to follow him isn’t call to an **individualistic journey**, but to a **community** of radical love and mission. **John 13:34***

Discussion Questions:

Question 1: How does living a life of isolation fail to align with God’s design for community? (*There is no community in isolation. You cannot “love one another” if others are not in your life.*)

Question 2: What are the four stages of a New Covenant Community?

- 1.) Commitment: Committing to a **church**. (*I'm a believer, but are you a believer?*)
Choice: Choosing to **belong**.
- 2.) Commitment: Committing to **friends**. (*Real life change happens in community. The sermon doesn't end when everybody says amen, that's when the real sermon begins.*)
Choice: Choosing to be **authentic**.
- 3.) Commitment: Committing to a **team**. (*Make a contribution. Don't sit and soak in the Discovery spiritual spa. Jesus didn't ask people to join His Bible study, He asked them to join His team.*) **1st Corinthians 3:9 TEV**
Choice: Choosing to **do my part**.
- 4.) Commitment: Committing to my **faith-family**.
Choice: Choosing to love each other **like family**. **Acts 2:42 CEV** (*Church is not an event you go to, but a family you belong to.*) **1st John 3:10, 1st John 4:20, 1st John 3:14**

Question 3: What's the truth about "Church Hurt?" (*It's a tactic of the enemy to divide and conquer the body of Christ through separating people from the body of Christ.*)

Question 4: What can we do to combat "Church Hurt?" (*Take "church" off that phrase and recognize the hurt for what it really is. It's just "Hurt". In life we get hurt. When we attach the church to our hurt, it stains God's church which is beautiful, honorable, and glorious - His plan, and His bride.*) **Romans 12:5** (*We are all one body in Christ.*)

- A Christian without a **local church** is a **spiritual orphan**. **Matthew 16:18 NLT** (*The church is not a man-made institution. It is holy, it is the plan of God – it is the called out ones on assignment completing the mission of God.*)

Four aspects of who you are:

- 1.) The **Arena** (*Part of your personality that people perceive or you project*)
- 2.) The **Mask** (*The you, you hide behind. The lies that nobody but you knows.*)
- 3.) The **true self**. (*The you that only you know.*)
- 4.) The **blind spots**. (*The you that you don't know, that only they know.*) **Acts 2:44 LB**

Question 5: How do we build deep friendships? (*Meet together and share. They spent time together sharing experiences (Proverbs 27:17), homes, (Peter 4:9 NCV) and your pain, (1st Galatians 6:2 NLT) When you share your joy it's doubled. When you share your problems they're cut in half. We help one another, not fix one another.*)

Prayer Requests / Close in Prayer: