

**People in Community**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, October 1st, 2023**



**Sermon Title:** People in Community

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 1:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Galatians 3:26-28, 4:4-7

**Sermon Focus:** Christians and non-Christians alike feel the loss when we are not part of meaningful community. And we often try to build community around common interests or values. But what if community isn't something we need to create? What if community is a gift we already have that we are invited to receive with gratitude? In this message, Pastor Melissa unpacks the beginning of our church-wide definition of disciples: "Disciples are people in community..."

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Do you know anyone who formerly attended church but doesn't anymore? What have they said about their experience with Christian community? Where do they look for community?

2. Read Genesis 1:26-27. What do you notice about God's act of creating humanity? Why is it significant that God creates both male and female to reflect his image together? What do we miss when we live out our faith in isolation from other people?
3. In the Fall (see Gen 3), our community with God and with one another was broken. We now tend to create community in our own terms. What does that look like? What kind of expectations or "requirements" (spoken or unspoken) do we put in place for relationships? What are the results of human-centered community?
4. Pastor Melissa said that in Christ, community is not an ideal we strive for, but a reality we live into. Read Galatians 3:26-28, which describes the implications of our adoption as God's children by faith. What does it mean to "clothe yourself with Christ"? This passage isn't indicating that we should not notice or value differences in other people, but that we are united by God's grace. How can we enter Christian community as "thankful recipients" (as Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it)?
5. Recall a time when you experienced conflict, frustration, or hurt in Christian community. How would remembering that we're all recipients of God's grace help in that situation? How does that experience affect your approach to community now?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. Pastor Melissa suggested that community is lived out in the mundane moments of life as we come together around the significant purpose of reconciliation. What are some of the mundane things you do during the week? Which of those do you do with other people or where might you invite someone to join you? And how could you pursue reconciliation with God and others in that ordinary activity?