



COMMUNITY

LIVING IN COMMUNITY

Objective for Learning: To understand the radical importance of being a part of a larger body of believers to walk out your faith with.

Objective for Living: To actively engage with and be a part of a thriving community of believers that is sharpening your walk with Christ and helping you become more like Him.

Objective for Reproducing: To not only live in community yourself but to be able to vision cast and effectively draw others into a strong, life-giving community of fellow believers.

Scriptures for Community:

- Acts 2:42-47
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Colossians 3:16-17
- Acts 20:28
- Ephesians 2:21
- Matthew 18:20
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Acts 5:42

How do each of these Scriptures help to **define** and **illuminate** what accountability is and why it is important?

Hearing (Discussion Points and Questions):

Overview:

We were made to be in community. This is not optional in our pursuit of and relationship with Jesus. The earliest followers of Jesus were devoted to fellowship because they had discovered that the way of Jesus cannot be lived alone (Acts 2:42-47). Living in community is part of our being created in the image of God. When we are connected, we thrive. When we are disconnected, we wither (John 15:1-11).

In community, you find out who you really are in Christ through the loving voices of those who know you best. Gifts, talents, and passions get called out that you never knew you had (Ephesians 4:11, 1st Cor. 12:7-11, Romans 12:6-8).

Community rejoices with you at your high points and carries you when you are down (Romans 12:15). Your spiritual blind spots get covered by friends who want the best for you and leaders called to oversee you. It is in Christ we find out who we are and what we are made for, but it is often in community where this gets called out and confirmed. Sure, it's messy. It means you have to be selfless instead of selfish, and there is the possibility that you could get burned. But outside of community, we dry up. We sin. We fall short. The lone ranger can only go so far by himself. But in community? We experience power and grace that cannot be acquired on our own. You need other believers in your life!

Questions for Learning and Living:

- Why is community a non-negotiable for anyone following Jesus?
- What are the benefits of a life lived in true community?
- What are some of the major barriers that keep us from truly living in community?
- What are the elements of truly living in community? What does that mean?

Questions for Reproducing:

- What would you say to someone who thinks that their faith is fine just being between them and God without the church or anyone else?
- How do you pull people into community and help them to actually commit to being a faithful participant in a Christ centered community?

Doing (Implementation and Application):

- What is Jesus saying to you about this?
- How are you going to respond? Look at your personal discipleship assessment.
 - Give 1-3 concrete action steps that you are going to do this week to help you take the next step of learning, living, or reproducing in this area.
- Choose one of the Scriptures that really impacted you and commit to memorizing it this week.