

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

A SERIES ABOUT THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN FRIENDS & COMMUNITY



SERIES OVERVIEW

Have you ever felt out of place, like you didn't belong? Maybe in a room full of people, you've felt completely alone. Most of us have been there. We want to be a community that feels different, where, *together*, we can become more like Jesus.

That's why we're launching this fall with a series called ***Life in Community***. We'll discover how community transforms us, how deep friendships make us stronger, how to handle conflict well, and why authentic community requires unity.

1

The power of
COMMUNITY
transforms us

2

Deep friendships
build strong
COMMUNITIES

3

In our
COMMUNITY
we handle conflict

4

COMM—UNITY
Authentic community
requires unity

QUESTIONS TO GO DEEPER AT HOME

WEEK 1 ~ SEPT 6TH

Jesus changes our lives, and that transformation shapes the way we live. We'll look at the early church and see how together their generosity, worship, and shared lives helped others experience the good news of Jesus.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus transforms people, and He often uses community to inspire life-change.

WHERE IN GOD'S WORD:

Acts 2:42-47; Proverbs 27:17; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:11

QUESTIONS FOR HOME:

- How has regularly meeting together with other Christians (in church, Groups, etc.) impacted you?
- What are the challenges that make it difficult for you to prioritize meeting with other Christians regularly?
- How do you feel living in community with other believers helps you to worship God more/better?
- What do you need to do this week to pursue living in Christian community?

WEEK 3 ~ SEPT 20TH

Conflict is unavoidable, even in healthy community. Through Paul and Barnabas, we'll see how the way we handle disagreement can either pull people apart or help a community grow stronger.

BIG IDEA:

Conflict is inevitable, but growth is optional. Our community will be stronger when we are willing to grow.

WHERE IN GOD'S WORD:

Acts 15:36-41; Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18; Philippians 2:3-5; Colossians 4:10, 3:13; 2 Timothy 4:11

QUESTIONS FOR HOME:

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement, "conflicts are inevitable even among Christians"?
- Why do you think Jesus taught that we should seek reconciliation with a person with whom we are in conflict before offering our worship to Him?
- What do you feel are some negative consequences when conflicts among us aren't resolved?
- How have you grown when you've experienced conflict with someone?

WEEK 2 ~ SEPT 13TH

Strong communities are built on deep friendships. Through David and Jonathan, we'll see what it looks like to encourage, support, and strengthen one another.

BIG IDEA:

In Christian community, Godly friendships go deep.

WHERE IN GOD'S WORD:

1 Samuel 18-20, 2 Samuel 9:6-7, John 13:34-35

QUESTIONS FOR HOME:

- What stands out most to you about Jonathan and David's friendship?
- When was the last time a friend took action to help you with something?
 - When was the last time you did that for a friend?
- Who is a peer or friend with whom you would like to build a stronger relationship?
 - What steps could you take to pursue that friendship?

WEEK 4 ~ SEPT 27TH

The body of Christ is made up of different people with different gifts and roles. Authentic community requires unity, and every person matters in helping the church reflect Jesus to the world.

BIG IDEA:

We're better together! A strong community requires unity.

WHERE IN GOD'S WORD:

1 Corinthians 12:12-26; John 17:20-21; Ephesians 2:10, 4:6

QUESTIONS FOR HOME:

- What part do you think God has designed you to play in our church and home?
- How is it that unity among us gives the world a glimpse of Jesus?
 - Have you experienced someone carrying some of your burdens?
 - What are some things we might do to help strengthen unity and harmony in our community?