

THE RESTORATION OF COMMUNITY The Vision #2

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.
Genesis 2:18, 22,23, 25

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
Genesis 3:7-8

(John 13:34-35; Acts 2:44)

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" In reply Jesus said... "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."
Luke 10:25-37

(1 Timothy 3:14-15)

The call to Real Life is the call to _____!

A. Common _____

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
1 John 4:11-12

B. Common _____

Then we will no longer be infants... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:14-16

3 benefits of community:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Common

“...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:18

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

Small Group Discussion Notes

These small group notes are a tool, not a curriculum to be completed. Use them as you see fit!

Opening Questions

- Did you have the opportunity to observe restoration or potential for restoration anywhere in your world this week?
- We talk a lot about Community. What is it, what does it look like, and can it be counterfeited?

Launching Questions

- Genesis 3:7-8 describes what happened when sin entered the world. What were the effects on Adam and Eve, and how did they respond?
- Read Luke 10:25-37. Why does Jesus place such a high emphasis on the love we show for each other? Why did he feel compelled to mention it in the same breath as loving God?

Guiding Questions

- What does it mean to say that we were “created for relationship and community”? What does that imply for people who are not participating in community?
- Why does sin cause separation? Where have you seen the separating effects of sin?
- How do you respond to people who aren't a part of the Church, yet want to reject or dismiss the church? In your experience, what is the best thing about the Church?

Application Questions

- How can we strengthen the things that bond this small group together, and address the things that keep us apart?
- How well do we protect each other, help each other grow, and care for each other? In what areas are we weak, and how can we address those things?
- The mission of this group is to follow Jesus in restoring lost people to Real Life, which is loving God loving others and serving the world. How can we better engage lost people to fulfill our purpose?