

PATHWAYS

Week 2 | Living in Community

Matthew 4:18-22

1. The call to follow Jesus is a call to live in His community

Matthew 8:18-22

2. Living in community comes with a cost

Matthew 9:9-13

3. Jesus is more interested in level of commitment than level of maturity

Matthew 10:1-14

4. The early disciples made more disciples in community

Matthew 20:20-28

5. The goal of community is to become more like Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20

6. Jesus commissions us to make new disciples in the context of community

Living in Community is a Pathway to:

1. Be with Jesus
2. Become Like Jesus
3. Do what Jesus Did

What are some of the benefits of living in Community?

1. Friendship
2. Bearing burdens / Caring for one another
3. Confession
4. Encouraging & Strengthening one another
5. Prayer & Worship
6. Ministry Together

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISES

“Let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God’s grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Living in community with each other first means joining ourselves together through prayer and thankfulness. Take a few moments to thank God for the partners He has given you to live in community with. Think through your community--those with whom you serve, celebrate, and share sorrows. As specific friends come to mind, thank God for His work in and through them and ask Him to guide you in prayer for them.

- **Exercise # 1:** Pray for those you live in community with each morning this week.

“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.” - 1 Corinthians 10:17

As followers of Christ, we are one body. God wants us to desire to connect with each other in authentic relationships that cultivate, celebrate, and make evident Christ’s love for all the world. What does a community centered around Christ look like? Scripture gives us several examples and instructions on how to live as one body.

Love one another

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love another.” - John 13:34-35

Encourage one another

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up...” - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Be kind to one another / Forgive one another

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” - Ephesians 4:32

Care for one another

“But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.” - 1 Corinthians 12:24-25

Sit quietly and prayerfully become aware of God’s presence. Ask God to show you someone in your community that He wants you to invest in. Spend a moment in prayer for this person. Ask God to show you one of the ‘one another’ examples from scripture above to live out for that person this week. Ask Him to give you the desire, time, and energy to follow through. Thank God for this person and for their presence in your life. Close your prayer by thanking God for the gift of community in your life.

- **Exercise #2:** Engage the person that the Spirit revealed to you with one of the “one another” commands above. What was this practice like for you?

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

Pray

As you begin, pray with your group. Pray that Christ would strengthen the relationships in your Missional Community and in our church to be affectionate, persevering, hopeful, and missional.

Discuss

1. In one sentence, what was your big takeaway from this week's sermon on living in community?
2. As we live in community, what is this a pathway to?
3. What was your experience like working through the individual exercises this week?

Read

Take a moment to read Philippians 1:3-11 together with your missional community. This is an example of an early church living in community and partnering with one another in the gospel.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:3-11, ESV)

1. What are some things that this passage teaches us about community and gospel partnership?
2. What does Paul specifically pray for this early church community?
3. How can we encourage one another to abound in these areas?

Dream Together

Paul did not do ministry alone. The early church did not do ministry alone. The first disciples did not do ministry alone. Even Jesus lived in community while He ministered. Take some time to dream about what doing ministry together with your group and local church could like.

- How can this group partner to make disciples together?
- Why is ministering in community better than doing ministry alone?
- In what ways have you attempted to do ministry alone instead of partnering together?