

LIFE GROUPS

Day 1: Better Together

Read

[Genesis 1:26-31](#) (NIV)

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

THINK

This might seem like an odd place to start when talking about living in community with others. While odd, it's the best place to start. This passage helps lay the foundation of why community is so important.

On the sixth day of creation God creates humanity. He created them male and female and He gives them a purpose. Increase in number, subdue the earth and rule over it. In other words, take care of my creation. But we are not meant to do this alone. Notice how this passage begins. “God said, ‘Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in **our** likeness...’”

One of the core beliefs in Christianity is that there is one God revealed in three persons. We simply say the trinity. It's a little difficult to wrap our minds around, but God reveals Himself as God the Father, God the Son (Jesus in the New Testament), and God the Holy Spirit. All three persons are God. What's important to take away from this is that God lives in a perfect community with Himself, and that He created humanity in His image. This means that we are created to live in community with others as well.

When sin entered the world, it made living in community with others more difficult. We have all been hurt by others and seen the effects of when relationships go wrong. This isn't a reason to avoid community though. If part of fully being who God created us to be means living in community with others it is important to work towards making community work.

QUESTIONS

- Why do you think God created us to live in community with others?
- What are some negative experiences you have had living in community with others?
- How can we lean on God's promises to promote a healthy community with others?

PRAY

“God, you have created us for community. Help me see where I have hurt others in relationships, and help me learn from my mistakes. Heal the wounds that others have caused me, and allow me to lean into community with others.

LIFE GROUPS

Day 2: Better Together

Read

[Matthew 4:18-22](#) (NIV)

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

THINK

One of the most amazing things about God is that He entered into humanity through Jesus. He took up residence and lived among people. He walked with them, ate with them, cried with them and shared moments of joy with them. He lived in community with us.

As Jesus was beginning His ministry here on earth and announcing the Kingdom of God was at hand even He knew the importance of not doing this alone. One of the first things he did was begin to call people to follow Him and to partner with Him in ministry. We refer to these people as His disciples. This simply means they were learners of Jesus. When we name Jesus as the subject of our lives we also become learners of Jesus. This means we promote what Jesus promoted and we continue to partner with Him in His ministry of seeing His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

One of these things that we promote is a community that is centered on Jesus. A community that shares our lives with one another. A community that invites others in and points them to the hope and life that we have in Jesus.

QUESTIONS

- How can we promote a community centered on Jesus?
- What does it look like to share life with others?
- How are you partnering with Jesus currently to promote His community?

PRAY

"God, thank you for calling me to be a part of what you are doing. Let me look to you for guidance as I promote community with others and invite others to join with us."



LIFE GROUPS

Day 3: Better Together

Read

[1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#) (NIV)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

THINK

Paul was writing to the church in Corinth because they were having some trouble with unity. Paul reminds them they all have one thing in common...Jesus.

He goes on to compare them to a body. They are one body and all have different functions and roles to play. This is a great reminder for us as well as we live in community with others. We all have different gifts, talents, dreams, and desires. There are different things that we care about, celebrate, and mourn. Just because there are differences doesn't mean we are disconnected. On the contrary, our diversity brings us together.

We all bring something to the gathering of people we call the church. As we live in community with others we bring our talents, gifts, and knowledge to encourage and build up others in the church. When we live in community with others we share our abilities and we also benefit from others that share their abilities with us. This is what allows us to continue to grow in our faith, to reach people in our communities, and to spread the hope and love of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

- What gifts and talents do you bring to the church?
- How have you benefited from the gifts and talents of others?
- If you haven't stepped into a Life Group, how can we help you take that step?

PRAY

“God, thank you for the gifts and talents you have given me. Thank you for the desires and passions you have placed in my heart. Allow me to use them to benefit my church and to further your kingdom.”