

CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

GROWING TOWARD GOD TOGETHER

TEACHING NOTES

Our society is more disconnected than ever:

- Today, our culture values independence and individualism.
- We are in one of the most connected, but loneliest generations.

Connectivity has always been our design:

- Community was a core value in the early church and an expression of what it meant to follow Jesus.
- From the very beginning, believers were gathering in their homes and gathering in community.
 - “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42 (ESV)
- All are members of the body of Christ, none of us is the body by ourselves. Together we make up the body and need one another.
 - “The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)
- Friendship is a vital value of the Christian faith.
 - Our relationships closest to us determine if we are strong in our faith, pulled off course, or are lonely and isolated.
 - “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)
 - “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17 (ESV)
 - “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.” Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)
 - “Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company ruins good morals.’” Proverbs 15:33 (ESV)

We desperately need strong Christian relationships:

- That provoke us to good works
- Make us laugh & have fun
- Serve God alongside others
- Raise families together
- If you want to see where you will be in 5 years, show me your closest friendships.

Our God is in community (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) and wants us to live the same. How can we build Christian community?

1. Join a small group at your church
2. Find a place to serve in your church
3. Open up your heart and invite others

Make space for spiritual drafting in your life: We draft off one another and are able to go further, faster, stronger with more longevity when we do it together rather than on our own.

Your Challenge: Take a practical step to grow community. Your life will be impacted TODAY, and you’ll be a stronger believer because of it.

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Definition of Community: fellowship with others having common attitudes, interests, and goals.

Show me your friends, and I'll show you your future: Our relationships shape us. Like it or not, you become like the people closest to you.

Can my close relationships really hold me back?

Read Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 12:26, 1 Corinthians 15:33

How can Christian relationships help me succeed?

Read Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 18:20

Challenge: Take the next step. It may include stepping out of your comfort zone a bit, but the results of Christian community will be far more rewarding than you can imagine!

Prayer:

Father, thank You for revealing the way relationships have an impact on me. Help strengthen me to be a strong positive influence in those around me. I also ask that You continue to bring new friendships into my life that will strengthen me, grow me, and position me to walk in all that You hold for my life. Give me the boldness to step out where You are calling me. In Jesus' name, Amen.