

Sermon Title: Practical Faith - Better Together

Scripture Reference: John 15:12–15, Romans 12:4–8

Connection:

- What do you remember most from last week's sermon?
- How did you hear God's voice or sense His presence this past week?
- What are you excited for this autumn?

Reflection:

- Summarize this week's sermon in one to three sentences. What was the main point of the message?
- What did the message say about you, God's people or the world?

Application

1. Icebreaker / Story Question (no reading)

Tell about one person in your life who makes you feel safer, braver, or more like yourself (like Matt in the sermon). What did they do that communicated "you've got me"? How might you be that person for someone else?

2. Theology + Identity (with reading)

Read John 15:12-15 (NLT). How does Jesus describe the difference between a friend and a servant? What would it look for your small group / church to live more like friends of Jesus, not just service providers?

3. Practical Barriers (no reading)

What's one honest reason you've stayed distant from community (schedule, fear, past hurt, tech, etc.)? Pick one small, practical step you could take this week to overcome that barrier, and name someone who'll hold you accountable.

4. Body of Christ / Roles (with reading)

Read Romans 12:4–8 (NLT). Where do you see your current gifts most clearly used? Where might God be asking you to shift, serve differently, receive from others, or step into a new rhythm of contribution?

5. Friendship that sharpens (with reading)

Read Proverbs 27:17 and James 5:16 (NLT). Who in your life is an "iron-sharpener" for you? What one relational habit (confession, regular check-ins, prayer, coaching) would help you deepen that sharpening relationship this month?