



CONNECTING WITH OTHERS.

We humans are created for connection. We crave it. And yet, we so easily get complacent and slip into that individualistic trap. We avoid our neighbors for months or even years. We aren't open and vulnerable even with the people closest to us. We do what's best for ourselves without a second thought. But where has that left us?

In 2015, one in five Americans was said to suffer from "persistent loneliness." Someone else put it well recently, "Everyone's lonely but no one will admit it."

Followers of Jesus aren't called to be loners. Extraverts and introverts alike are called to live in community - gathering together consistently, serving, worshiping, living life together. When people gather together with Jesus at the focus, God shows up, and when God shows up, transformation happens - in our lives, the lives of the people around us, and in the world.

IN THE BIBLE.

Acts 2:42-27

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the

temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) Community seems to be pretty important to God. Besides the verses above, what are some other examples of community in the Bible?
- 2.) What things keep you from being in community?
- 3.) Has being in a connection group impacted your life and/or strengthened your relationship with God? If so, how?
- 4.) Who can you invite to experience this community with you next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?