



# IMMANUEL CHURCH

**Conversation Starter:** Refuse to Solo  
**August 13, 2017**

**Opening Questions:**

- Sometimes filters get clogged and instead of cleaning the air, they block it. How have you experienced this with the filters you've maybe put on yourself? How has life become less than what you'd want it to be because you're trying to make a part of it look better than it really is?
- Describe the friendships in your life where there's no filter required. How did that relationship become so authentic? What's true of it that's not true in your other friendships and acquaintances?

**Looking at Scripture:**

- Read ***Ecclesiastes 4:9-12***...Which part of this passage stands out to you most? Is there one of the three scenarios that you most resonate with? What do you need most in life right now? Help? Comfort? Or victory? According to this passage, why are we doomed to fail if we're alone?
- There are countless things in life that are meant to be done in community—including the Christian journey. What do you think are the pitfalls we face when we attempt to fly solo in this area of our lives? What are we unable to do alone?
- Read ***Acts 2:44-47***...This level of sharing sounds amazing, but what's required, attitude wise, of both the giver and the person being shared with? How does failing to have this kind of attitude prevent true community?
- Francis Schaefer argues that Christian community is the final apologetic. In other words, it's proof to others that God is real and the Gospel is true. Does this worry you at all? Why? With this level of responsibility to God, each other and everyone outside the church, what things need to be true of us and where do we start?

**Application Questions:**

- This week's bottom line was **OUR BEST CHANCE FOR GETTING CLOSER TO JESUS IS WITH OTHER PEOPLE**. Community helps us live life the way Jesus lived his. And that life is ultimately the life we really want. But it requires the filter coming off...does this scare you? What needs to happen in order for you to feel more comfortable being more authentic within the context of this group?
- Do you ever find yourself being frustrated by a lack of help, support and comfort from other people? How might you have contributed to that lacking? Have you humbly asked or told anyone? How do you go about letting people in?

*End your time together asking God to help you find true community—especially in your group. Pray for each member and their ability to humbly ask for help when they need it and to give it without judgement of others. Ask God to help your group get closer to him through your relationships with one another.*