

March 15th, 2026

Following Together

God said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."

Genesis 2:18 (MSG)

He appointed twelve that they might be with him...

Mark 3:14 (NIV)

*Discipleship is practiced in a relational environment
with Christ as our center.*
(Sunridge Discipleship Value)

- Jesus formed a _____, not just individuals.
Mark 3:14
- Jesus is represented in the world today by the _____
– a community of faith.
Matt 16:18; 1Cor 12:27; Acts 2:42
- Even Jesus didn't _____. Matt 26:38
- God created us as _____ beings. Gen 2:18
- A necessary clarification: Salvation is _____, but
discipleship is communal.

*Jesus never intended discipleship to be a _____ pursuit.
We are formed into Christlikeness in community, not isolation.*

1. Following Jesus requires _____
not just _____.
2. God forges his character in us through the
_____ of relationships, not in
_____. John 13:35
3. Growth often requires _____ when it
would be easier to _____. John 6:67-68

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

When you think about the idea of independence, which do you lean toward more—and why?

- "I'd rather figure things out on my own."
- "I'd rather do life with others."

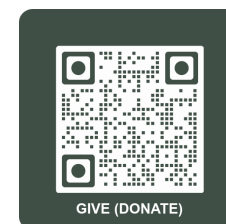
Where do you see that tendency show up most clearly in your life (work, family, faith, friendships)?

The message drew a distinction between attendance and engagement. Where do you see that difference most clearly in your own spiritual life right now? What makes engagement harder—or more costly—than simply showing up?

The sermon emphasized that God often shapes us through people, not in isolation. Can you think of a relationship (past or present) that God has used to stretch, challenge, or refine your faith? What did you learn about yourself—or about following Jesus—through that relationship?

Jesus formed his disciples through relational tension, not by removing it. When relationships become uncomfortable or difficult, what is your default response—stay, withdraw, or leave? What might it look like to practice staying in a Christlike way, without enabling harm or avoiding wisdom?

The message ended with a clear invitation: moving from isolation toward community. What is one small, concrete step you sense God inviting you to take right now to engage more fully in Christian community? (Joining a group, being more vulnerable, serving, initiating a conversation, staying when it's uncomfortable, etc.)



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- God created us as relational beings. Gen 2:18
- A necessary clarification: Salvation is personal, but discipleship is communal.

*Jesus never intended discipleship to be a solo pursuit.
We are formed into Christlikeness in community, not isolation.*

1. Following Jesus requires engagement not just attendance.
2. God forges his character in us through the messiness of relationships, not in isolation.
John 13:35
3. Growth often requires staying when it would be easier to leave. John 6:67-68

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