

VALUES 3 | GATHERED IN COMMUNITY

ACTS 2:46

Society is built on community. We live in communities, we join communities, we are designed for community. This makes sense because community is the very essence of who *God* is. God does not “function” in isolation. He has revealed Himself as three distinct Persons, each with distinct roles and ways of communicating, yet are One.

This DNA was passed along to us. Made in His image, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” So He created a life partner — woman — to not only combat loneliness but that the purposes of God might be fulfilled.

God’s people, both Old Testament and New, have never been alone. He designed us to function interdependently as we continue to fulfill His purposes. The Church, described as “the family of God”, the “household of God”, a “royal priesthood”, a “flock” with a Shepherd, “the bride of Christ” and a “body” where each member has a function, all point to deep *relationship*.

Life is not meant to be lived alone. It is in isolation where God’s enemy does his best work of stealing, killing and destroying lives. Jesus did not do ministry

alone, He did not send His disciples out alone, the early church did not send Apostles out alone, and the Apostle Paul did not do ministry alone. We are not meant to be *alone*.

We were created for and called to be a people *gathered in community*.

MEMORY VERSE

Acts 2:46

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts.

BIBLE READING PLAN

MONDAY	GENESIS 1:26-27; 2:18-25
TUESDAY	JOHN 17:1-26
WEDNESDAY	EPHESIANS 4:1-16
THURSDAY	1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-10; 11:17-34
FRIDAY	HEBREWS 10:19-25
SATURDAY	ACTS 2:38-47

POST SUNDAY STUDY CONTENT

1. What is the foundation of “community”?
2. In what ways have you found church community to be a gift to you in your life? In what ways have you found church community to be complex, complicated, or difficult?
3. Discuss the two root words in “community”:
Common: What do Christians have in common?
Unity: What are some tangible expressions of unity?
4. Why do we need to live in community?
5. Community is rooted in fellowship. What are some critical aspects of true fellowship?
6. What role does communion play in community?
7. What are some ways that we can combat division in the church?