



Life Together: The Power of Community

“The Gift That Keeps on Giving”

Jeremiah Ramer // September 1-2, 2018

INTRODUCTION: Jeremiah closed the Life Together series this weekend by first challenging us not to use some of the excuses we like to make for avoiding community in our lives. Then he encouraged us to consider how God uses community when we are willing to take a simple small step. The big idea is that, **“God does his best work when we step into community.”**

WARMING UP: Can you recall a funny story that includes an awkward moment? Years ago, before Tessa and I had our first daughter, we went to a movie and I accidentally ran into the women’s restroom...much to the shock of the woman washing her hands! We still laugh about that moment 13 years later!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. God never intended community to be difficult or awkward but sometimes it is. How can you as a group in community work to make your group less awkward for those trying to get into community?
2. One of the greatest challenges to community is the challenge of *embracing vulnerability*. In order to increase vulnerability you must embrace vulnerability yourself. What are some reasons why people find vulnerability so difficult in relationships? Is it hard for you to be vulnerable and open?
3. Brene Brown said, *“Vulnerability is about showing up and being seen. It’s tough to do that when we’re terrified about what people might see or think.”* What kinds of barriers do people most often put up and why?
4. **Read Mark 2:14-15.** What jumps out about the community found in the account of Levi being called to follow Jesus?
5. The opposite of *embracing community for someone else* is *approaching community with a consumer mentality*. Discuss what this means and how you see it playing out in society. (too busy, us 4 and no more...)
6. How have you seen community in your life impact your family either as a kid growing up or now?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.** Then read 1 verse at a time and discuss how you see elements of community playing out in each verse.
8. Lee Strobel’s wife Leslie said, *“What I did find out over time is that the best way to reach (Lee) was to continue to let God grow me.”* Discuss how her statement might apply to different relationships you engage in every day.

9. **Read John 13:34-35.** Can you recall (or search for on Google!) any times in which the disciples needed to hear Jesus' words in these verses? How do the examples you uncover connect to our every day lives?

PRAY ABOUT IT: Who is it that you should be inviting into community? If God has used community to change your life, then you have to believe he can do what he's done for you for others! Pray for at least 1 person specifically that you feel God leading you to invite into your community.