

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY LIFE GROUP LESSON 1
WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER-HOW WE UNLEASH
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

“You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do, together we can do something great for God.” –Mother Teresa.

Memory Verse: So no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. 1 Corinthians 13:3b (MSG)

I. Introduction: The first challenge of this week's message was to consider God's promise to bring His power in a fresh new way as we are willing to go from “_____” to “_____” in our thinking.

Things we can expect:

- A. Greater impact in our _____.
“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them in Heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:19-20 NIV)
- B. Less weight carrying our burdens, more _____ in experiencing our blessings.
- *“Fellowship divides our problems and multiplies our joy.”*
 - *“Be happy (rejoice) with those who are happy and weep with those who weep.” (Rom. 12:15 NLT)*

Friends make going to church twice as fun!

- C. Greater victories over struggles, heartbreaks, and Satan's attacks.

Some giants can only be defeated by “_____.”

- *“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.” (Eccl. 4:12 NLT)*
- *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is going through the same kind of sufferings.” (1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV)*

*Remember Satan's first attack is not to destroy you but to isolate you so he can destroy you.

II. Ways to unleash the power of community in your life

- A. Make building deeper relationships through love your top _____.
“Make love your highest goal!” (1 Cor. 14:1 NLT)

What would it look like to begin building your schedule around relationships instead of trying to get relationships to fit into your schedule?

Without love nothing I say, nothing I believe, nothing I know, nothing I sacrifice, and nothing I accomplish will ultimately matter. (1 Cor. 13)

- B. _____ to a life group-life on a “fellow-ship”.
Why building life group friends should be a higher priority than other kinds of friends.
- C. Learn to love with _____ instead of your love by putting Jesus at the center of your relationships.
- *“The church isn’t a gathering of people who are natural friends coming together because of what they naturally have in common, the church is often a group of people that could be natural enemies that are brought together only by, through and with Jesus.”*
Jesus is the motive, the means, and the miracle by which we love each other.
 - *“We love each other because He loved us first!” (I John 4:19 NLT)*

(Answers: me, we, prayers, joy, “team tackling” II. priority, commit, God’s love)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the size of the family you grew up in?
What is a word that pops into your mind that describes your family?
2. What is the name of a friend (other than spouse or parent) that made you better when you were together with them?
3. When it comes to community what kind of animal would you describe yourself as kind of being like and why? (turtle, snail, teddy bear, scorpion, rabbit, clown fish (nemo), elephant, other?)
4. What is a fear or comfort zone you think you might feel most challenged to overcome, as you consider stepping in closer and deeper in community? What is “just one step” the Lord might be asking you to take?
5. Is there one thing we can be praying with you about this week?

40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY COVENANT

During the next 40 days, I agree to the following:

1. **Clear Purpose:** To seek to grow in my faith by growing deeper in relationships with my spiritual family
2. **Participation Priorities:** I will make the 6 elements of this campaign a priority:
 - To hear the message by attending weekend services
 - To share and apply the message by coming to my life group faithfully (letting them know if I won’t be there)
 - To participate together in a service project to reach out to my community
 - To memorize a Scripture each week (I Corinthians 13 NIV)
 - To read the articles as I can in the blog
 - To faithfully pray for the members of our group as we pursue our purpose
3. **Help Keep a Safe environment:** Home Safe Home
 - Participation is volunteer
 - Respect for the time so everyone can share. (Supreme Court discussion rule: no one shares twice until everyone has had a chance to share once)
 - Not judge, interrupt, give advice when another person shares but only affirm
 - Keep confidences
 - Resolve conflict-If I’m offended I will seek to resolve the difference in a Biblical way
 - Not use this as a time to share political views or discuss doctrinal differences

-Free to share my issues but not gossip about people not present

4. **Welcome Newcomers**-We will warmly invite and include others to join