

# Created for Community

THE WAY WEEK 9 | AMANDA BEGGS

## Community brings us to Jesus.

→ If loneliness is the disease that's killing us, community is the remedy.

For those of us who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, community is more than just a place of belonging, it's also **a place of becoming**. Christian community is the gift of belonging to the family of God and in it becoming who God created us to be.

**Community:** disciples of Jesus in regular proximity and vulnerability who bring each other to Jesus.

- Disciples: people who have committed their life to follow Jesus
- Proximity + Vulnerability: they are regularly in your everyday life + you can be your true self
- Bring you to Jesus: point you to Jesus in word and deed

1. Community is centered on commitment to Jesus.

- And if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **Luke 9:23**

2. Community is multi-layered.

- 120 at Pentecost in the upper room; 72 disciples Jesus sends out; 12 disciples; Peter, James and John
- **Public:** 70+ people in church community; **Social:** 20-50 people in christian friendships; **Personal:** 5-12 people in trusted small group; **Intimate:** 2-4 people in close inner circle

3. Community is prayerfully discerned.

4. Community is incomprehensibly diverse.

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.  
Matthew 10:1-4

5. Community is defined by love.

6. Community is flawed.

### **Barriers to Community**

1. Searching for a Unicorn

*“Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial. God hates this wishful dreaming because it makes the dreamer proud and pretentious.”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

2. Too Expensive

- Confess your sins to one another (**James 5:16**)
- Bear one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**)
- Forgive one another (**Ephesians 4:32**)
- Serve one another (**1 Peter 4:10**)
- Love one another (**John 15:12**)
- Comfort one another (**2 Corinthians 13:11**)
- Encourage one another (**Hebrews 10:25**)

3. We prefer to fly solo

- “God and Me” philosophy that stems from our preferences, personality, or past experiences with the church.
- *“The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion.”* - John Wesley

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

“Son, your sins are forgiven.”

Mark 2:1-5

And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,

“We never saw anything like this!”

Mark 2:10-12

**Community brings us to Jesus because without Jesus, nothing changes.**

### **Three Truths About Community**

1. Bringing people to Jesus brings us to Jesus too.
2. “Where” matters.
3. Jesus is our only hope.

# the way.

DOING WHAT JESUS DID