



BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best group you have ever been a part of? (this could be a group from school, work, a project etc.)

What characteristics make a good group dynamic?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin talked about in our Ache for Eden it's important to have people in our lives. The right people in our lives can help us through the unplanned storms that can come our way.

Mother Theresa once said, "Loneliness is the epidemic of our day". The truth is, we are never alone. God said He would never leave us nor forsake us.

1. How has loneliness effected your life?

We get lonely because we want to be known and loved. Tim Keller says, "To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, and fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us."

Read Genesis 1:26

God made us intentionally to have relationship with Him to be fully known and loved.

2. How do you feel fully known and loved by God? How has God helped you with loneliness in your life?

Many times we look to God for a roadmap. God can give us a roadmap but He can also send us some friends to help along the way. When we read in Genesis 2:18 we see where God made Eve (a companion) for Adam. He didn't make Eve because Adam was lonely, He made Eve because Adam didn't need to be alone.

3. Describe a time when you were looking for an answer from God but He provided a friendship or relationship to help with that answer.

God is the creator of community. We were made for relationships. Relationship with God and relationship with others. To be fully loved and fully known. But when sin entered the world, it fragmented relationships. Relationships between God and man, and people. And since then brokenness has been a part of our story. God wanted to restore the brokenness. So God called Abraham to help restore the brokenness in this world by being a blessing to others.

Read Genesis 12:1-3

4. How would you describe what it looks like to be a blessing to others?

Jesus was the biggest blessing God gave us. Jesus is the way we connect back to God. He came as a human to have community with the people of this world and have community with God. He blesses us so we can bless others.

5. Where has Jesus blessed you in your life? How have your blessings allowed you to bless others?

Jesus chose a crew of followers who all had a questionable past. He didn't pick the perfect ones. Jesus knew it wasn't good to be alone so he chose committed people with new hearts to go out and change the world. This crew of people (disciples) went out into the world and told others about Jesus. They healed the sick, cared for the less fortunate and blessed those they came in contact with.

6. Who is the most influential group of people you know? What makes them so influential?

The disciples were fully known and loved by Jesus. In their imperfection, they continued to share the good news of Jesus and imitate who Jesus was.

Being known and loved takes time. We desire to be known and loved by God and others. But being known and loved by others takes intentionality. It doesn't happen overnight.

7. How are you intentional to express love and feel being known with the people in your life?

This week, Jamie and Rob shared their story of intentionally having community groups in their life. Opening their home was a first step of building a community where others felt known and loved.

8. What kind of community is God calling you to build in order to bless others and to provide a place where you can feel known and loved? Where do you need to make room in your life for relationship?

CLOSING PRAYER

God thank you for creating man so we could be in relationship with you. Thank you for helping us feel known and loved. Where we struggle with being lonely will you fill that with relationships that can be a blessing to one another? Will you help us be brave and get out of our comfort zone to create the community you are calling us to. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Pray about who you can be a blessing to this week. Personally try to bless 3 people this week and come back next week to tell everyone about the experience.

+ Pray and ask God about what kind of community He wants you to create or be a part of.