

ORGANIC DISCIPLES

WEEK 6, "CONSISTENT COMMUNITY"

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MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

God exists in eternal perfect trinitarian community. Jesus made relationships a priority when he walked on this earth, and he called his disciples to live in consistent loving community. When we walk in loving fellowship with God and each other, the world will see that we have what their hearts long for. This draws people toward the only one who can heal their hearts, bind their wounds, and satisfy their hunger to belong.

IMAGE

1. Create a slideshow from camps, retreats, missions, and normal group time. Kick things off by utilizing this as a visual for where we are heading for the night.
2. 2-3 minutes sharing how consistent community for me in HS helped me thrive. 40% of those ages 16-24 report being lonely.

NEED

1. One of the greatest gifts we have been given in life is community. We are better together, and when we engage in consistent community our lives are enriched, sharpened, and we help point each other closer to Jesus.

SUBJECT

1. Jesus was all about consistent community. He called the disciples, and for 3 years they basically did everything together.

PREVIEW

1. At the core of every human heart, there is a need for community. Jesus modeled community. He called together a group of 12, and community was built. And to this day, Jesus accomplishes His mission in community.

TEXT ADDRESS

1. Tonight we are spending time in the Gospel of Matthew, specifically chapter 4 and chapter 28, and you will walk away understanding why community is vital to our life.

SET UP

1. In Matthew 4:18-22, Jesus calls his first disciples. They were ordinary fishermen who didn't have Bible degrees or specific training for sharing about the Kingdom. But Jesus chose to have 12 guys to do community with during his 3 years of ministry. And in Matthew 28: 16-20, we get a high calling to "Go and make disciples". YOU are part of the mission. YOU are in community as a follower of Jesus to accomplish the mission.

TEXT

1. Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 12:29-31

MAIN POINTS

1. Jesus calls, and community is built

a. Disciples dropped everything to engage

- i. *Matthew 4:18-22 (READ)*
- ii. "Come Follow Me" (break this down and bring it to life)
 1. Lord of the rings "hobbits go on an adventure outside the shire"
- iii. "Fishers of Men, versus actual fish"

2. Jesus accomplished His mission in community

a. We are to "GO," and make disciples

- i. *Matthew 28:16-20 (READ)*
 1. All Authority (break this down)
 2. Make Disciples (command from Matthew 28)
 3. GO (present participle, GOING)
 4. DISCIPLES
 - a. Apprentice (define this)
 - b. YOU are a disciple/apprentice
 - i. Followers of Jesus get in on the mission

3. We were created for community

a. Jesus went to those that others avoided

- i. Leaned back into my opener about those avoided in my HS
- ii. *Matthew 8:1-4 (READ)*
 1. Leper, orphan, widow

2. When was the last time you went "TO," someone who was deemed an outcast?
 3. When was the last time you encouraged someone in this room who felt out of place?
 4. When was the last time you had a conversation with someone who felt like they didn't belong in this room?
- iii. Personal story of my best friend being tragically killed
1. Laura became a widow, and our Church cared for her

SUMMARY

1. Life was never meant to be done on our own. Even when we convince ourselves we are fine on our own, the truth is, we weren't meant to walk alone. Jesus had His 12 that he did community with. They spent time together. When Jesus began His ministry, he didn't think to Himself, "this is something I can accomplish by myself". He rallied together a group of men who became his disciples. And to this day, as Christ-followers, we get in on the mission. We are part of the family of God, and we get to go and make disciples of all nations.

LANDING

1. Knowing that community is the longing of every human heart, this should drastically change the way we live.

- a. If you're a leader in here, see the needs of our students and invite someone out who has often been forgotten.
- b. Students, look around you. Don't be afraid to reach out to someone new.
- c. Encourage someone to come to City Impact or Hume Lake. A strong community is formed on trips like these.
- d. Write someone an encouraging note
- e. Help make Monday nights feel like a place where everyone belongs.

2. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT (READ)

- a. It begins with loving the LORD
- b. Love your neighbor
- c. Monday nights begin to feel like family
- d. Students/Families will begin to wonder about this love on display

ACTION

1. Have your small group leaders organize an outing with their group to continue to dig deeper into community. It could be a lunch/dinner, bowling, movie night, game night, etc. Have your leaders take the action step into creating intentional community.