

SERMON SERIES: TRANSFORMATION

Sermon: Discipleship: The Plan

Do you think the need for community is a need that most people feel?

Do you think our society is becoming more or less connected, or remaining static in terms of people forming significant relationships?

Has there been a time when you felt intense loneliness? What helped you through that? What did you learn from that?

How has the experience of community or fellowship been helpful to you in the life of the church? Have there been times when it has been a negative or has lacked what you needed?

What would the ideal kind of community in the church look like to you?

What are some ways that community could be utilized as an avenue for outreach?

Read Acts 2:42 – 71 and Acts 4:32 – 35

- What were the areas of emphasis for this early church community?
- What resulted from the activities they pursued together?
- To what extent does our church community look like the one described here?
- To what extent should our church community look like this one?
- Would the outside world notice if this kind of community was happening at King Street? Is it noticing now?
- Are there new things we should do or changes you think we need to pursue in our community life here at the church? How would we make that happen?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

- Look at this passage, not in terms of what it may say about the Rapture (*I mean it!*), but in terms of what it says about community in God's plan
- What is the main encouragement that Paul is trying to give to the Thessalonian believers in this passage – i.e., why did he write this section?
- What does this say to us about God's plan for community, his value of it?
- How does this passage tie together the entire story of the Bible from beginning to end?

Read Genesis 1:26 – 27 and John 17:1 - 5

- How is community demonstrated in the character of God himself?
- What are the implications of that for His creation and especially those created in His image?