

True Community

together to create

**8-25-18 True Community - Part 3
Big Picture Living
Pastor Dave Patterson
8-25-18**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Review:

Ecc 4:9&12

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can help him up. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble...

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

3 strands are: me, my community, and the Holy Spirit.

"If I had it to do all over again... I'd get help" - John Ghegan

"We should not only use all the brains we have, but all that we can borrow" - President Woodrow Wilson

"It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody cares about who gets the credit" - Robert Yates

"Spinning more plates doesn't increase your talent – it increases your likelihood of dropping a plate" so the question is not whether you can do everything by yourself: it's how soon you're going to realize that you can't!" - Kerry Walls

1 Cor 12:20 (*The Message*)

I also want you to think about this . . .

No matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." ...They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Neh 3:4

Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. **Next to him** Meshullam son of Berekiah, ...**next to him** Zadok

Neh 3:17-18

...**Next to him**, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum ...**Next to him**, the repairs were made by their countrymen under Binnui son of Henadad,

Neh 3 :19-29

... **Next to him**, Ezer son of Jeshua....**Next to him**, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section...**Next to him**, Meremoth son of Uriah...

The repairs **next to him** were made by the priests from the surrounding region.

Next to them... Shemaiah son of Shecaniah...

Neh 3:12

Shallum son of Hallohesh and his daughters repaired the next section.

3 Application points from Nehemiah's story:

1. **Find your place and bring your best** (*your place on the wall*)

- **Ephesians 4:16** (NLT)

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. **As each part does its own special work**, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

- **Romans 12:6** (TPT)

God's marvelous grace imparts to each one of us varying gifts and ministries **that are uniquely ours**

2. **Live in proximity to the 2-way call for help**

- **Nehemiah 4:19-20**

Once again I addressed the nobles, the officials, and the gathered people.

"The massive scope of our important work here has caused us to be spread out across the wall. As a result, we are separated *and vulnerable*. Therefore if you hear the sound of the trumpet, *drop what you are doing and* join us where the alarm sounds. *Be assured* our True God will fight for us.

3. **Be willing to fight for community!**

- **Nehemiah 4:14**

Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!

- **Nehemiah 6:15-16**

So the wall was completed in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that **this work had been done with the help of our God.**

Next steps

1. Take your next step (card)
2. Get in a small group this fall
3. Go through GROW track and "discover your purpose"
4. Lead a group if you have completed GROW track
5. Serve on a team
6. Invest financially in what God is doing through TFH
7. Continue to Invest in developing your personal gifts and talents

TALK IT THROUGH

1. True or false: “Your best life is lived in community”? Give one reason why.
2. Was there a time in your life when community, a close circle of friends, fought for you or restored your life? What did that look like?
3. Pastor Dave shared that we are wired for significance. True community allows us to live with significance. What are you a part of that allows you to live beyond yourself? How important is this to you?
4. We’re encouraged to “find your place & bring your best.” Read Eph. 4:16 & Rom. 12:6 above. Where is your place in the local church? What are the unique gifts God has given you? How are you using/honing them? (Note: GROW track weeks 2 & 3 will help you discover your gifts and how you can use them in the body.)
5. Ephesians 4:16 says, “As each part does its own special work... so the body is healthy, growing and full of love.” Your own special part is a bigger deal than you know. The enemy doesn’t want you to see the bigger picture and the importance of your part. What’s one lie from the enemy that keeps you from “finding your place and bringing your best”? What is the truth about how God views you and your part? What do you think He is calling you to?
6. What are some “arguments” against community? What would you say to someone struggling with the desire to give community another chance?
7. Read Nehemiah 4:14 and consider the lives at stake. Taking your place, *or not*, “on the wall” – in the local church – has a tremendous effect on our families, neighborhoods, our cities, our region . . . Are you willing to defend what Jesus gave his life for? Share your next step toward Big Picture Living with your group.