



Alone Part 2- It's Worth It!
Pastor Dave Patterson
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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

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. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Psalm 68:6, AMP]

God makes a home for the lonely; (He sets the solitary in families) He leads the prisoners into prosperity.

BIBLICAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY

- Protection from attacks of the enemy
- Help to get back up when you fall
- Healing that comes through confession to each other
- Development of your spiritual gifts
- Release of the gifts of the Spirit into your life
- Recognition of our "blind spots", sharpening our lives
- Safety through wise counsel
- Equipping for effective ministry

- Greater spiritual victories through partnership
- Building up, encouragement and infused strength
- Financial help in times of need
- To reveal Jesus to the world

"I regret that I have but one life to lose for my county."

Nathan Hale (Captain of the American Revolution)

"I want to go... God, take me."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Friends applaud, the comedy is over."

Ludwig Beethoven

"I should never have switched from Scotch to Martinis."

Humphrey Bogart

"Why are you weeping? Did you imagine that I was immortal?"

King Louis 14th

"Please leave the shower curtain on the inside of the tub."

Conrad Hilton – (Hamilton Hotel Dynasty)

2 assignments that believers find difficult to this day:

1. STAY TOGETHER
2. PRAY TOGETHER

[Acts 2:1, AMP]

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place (in one accord). Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

[John 17:20-23, NIV]

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

[Psalm 133, NIV]

¹ Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! ² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

"No two people on the earth are compatible... it's simply an issue of varying degrees of incompatibility"

Tim Keller

COMMUNITY IS WORTH IT – DESTINY IS INSEPARABLE FROM RELATIONSHIPS

[James 3:16, NKJV]

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

[Proverbs 18:1, AMP]

He who willfully separates himself [isolates himself] seeks his own desire, and quarrels against wisdom. (Defies all sound judgment).

God does in our lives is unproven until it is refined and demonstrated in the midst of relationships. There is no way to verify the work of His grace in us if we are independent of others; nor is there any way to demonstrate his grace except through interaction with others"

Be Willing...

1. And ready to make space for people's "stuff"

The Carnegie Technological Institute has stated that 90% of all people who fail in their life's vocation fail because they cannot get along with people.

[Colossians 3:13a, NLT]

"Make allowance for each other's faults..."

Be Willing...

2. To learn and practice Biblical conflict resolution

[Colossians 3:13b, NLT]

and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

[Ephesians 4:32, NIV]

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Be Willing...

3. To be sharpened! (Friction that increases effectiveness)

[Proverbs 27:17, NIV]

As Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Be Willing...

4. To make a commitment to community

"Belonging is a choice that you can make long before you are recognized as one of the group... Disconnecting is a choice that you make long before anyone realizes that you have emotionally and mentally left the group"

"Who we are and what we accomplish in life will be a direct result of the relationships we make, maintain, and eliminate"

IT'S WORTH IT! LET'S GET IN A GROUP!

Key Points

1. Be willing and ready to make space for people's `stuff`
2. Be willing to learn and practice Biblical conflict resolution
3. Be willing to be sharpened! (Friction that increases effectiveness)
4. Make a commitment to community

Applications for the Week:

1. This week be the invitation to someone who has yet to commit to community through a small group.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does God make a home for us today? What is your personal experience of this home? (See Psalm 86:6)
2. Discuss a few of the Biblical Benefits of Community. How have you been impacted by Biblical Community?
3. How important is it that we guard unity? What 2 assignments help us do this?
4. Pastor Dave said, "Relationships shape destiny." How have you seen this played out in your life?
5. What are some obstacles that prevent us from being plugged into community? What are some ways to prevent a downward spiral from these effects?
6. How does unresolved offense remove people from community? What can we do to combat this?
7. What does it mean to make a commitment to community? How does choice play a part in this?
8. What does it take to sustain long-term community?