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Jesus modeled intentional community

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22 ESV

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

Matthew 9:9 ESV

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."

Matthew 10:2-4 ESV

Early followers of Jesus experienced life changing community

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 ESV

Model Community

Messy Community

To disregard community because of the mess or to give into our hyper individualistic form of spirituality will rob us of becoming more like Jesus.

Community: a group of people committed to intentional relationships around the way of Jesus.

To become like Jesus, we need each other.

Community is a non-option for those who follow Jesus.

"And let us consider how to *stir up* one another to love and good works, *not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some*, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV

It's not about you It's about us

We are formed in the environment of community.



True community is not just your group of friends.

"The place where the person you least want to live with always lives."

Henri Nouwen on community

"God calls us to the family table, to work out our differences with the 'others,' to share a meal together, and to invite more 'others' to the table of the crucified and risen Lord."

Dr. Paul Metzger

4 Community takes intentional commitment and sacrifice.

To become like Jesus, we need each other.



Dr. Dwaine Cowan

Professor Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University. Father of Organic conductors and superconductors who designed, synthesized, and characterized the first "organic metals."

To become like Jesus, we need each other.