

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Consistent, small steps often make the big difference.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

The fulfilling life God intends for me is found in community with other Jesus followers.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

Scripture is consistent in sharing the importance of being in community, which is a group of Jesus followers who intentionally meet in the name of Jesus. By being in community we can live the full life the way that God desires. Jesus actually modeled living life in community by choosing to live life with the twelve disciples. As Jesus followers meet together the most important member of the group is Jesus. We are like the first believers and can and should experience teaching, building relationships, eating, praying, celebrating the stories of God working in them, helping others, and sharing Jesus. Community happens in both the small group and the larger gathering. The first believers embraced the same mission as Westside of loving Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and sharing Jesus. We therefore carry on a 2,000-year-old mission. Being in consistent community is a small step that is critical for the life God wants for all of us.

TALK IT OVER (DISCUSS ONE OR MORE):

Share a story about your nuclear family when you were growing up. Why or why not would you consider your growing up family to be functional or dysfunctional?

How can a group address everything that occurred with the first believers living in community (teaching, building relationships, eating, praying, celebrating the stories of God working in them, helping others, and sharing Jesus)? How would you include everything in a monthly rhythm of life together?

What are the most challenging things that can / should be done in a group? Why?

Explain why celebrating stories of God working and you taking next steps are important.

What was the biggest obstacle for you to join a group? What are the most effective ways for people to successfully join a group?

How can God grow the number of groups?

OTHER SCRIPTURES TO READ:

John 13:34-35

Acts 5:42

Galatians 6:1-2

1 John 4:11-13