Small Group Guide

Community: Support and Accountability
Growing as a Disciple (Part 5)
November 22, 2026

Overview

This week's sermon explored the biblical foundation of Christian community, why genuine relationships matter in the life of a disciple, and what it looks like to move beyond surface-level connection into real, accountable, grace-filled relationships with one another.

Key Takeaways

- God designed human beings for community. From the very beginning, in Genesis 2:18, God declared that isolation is not good. The desire for connection is not a weakness — it is woven into how God made us.
- Love for one another is not optional for followers of Jesus. In John 13, Jesus gives a direct command to love one another, and says that this love is how the world will recognize his disciples.
- The early church in Acts 2 modeled what devoted, shared community life looks like — teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer together.
- Genuine community requires intentionality. We make time for what matters to us, and building real relationships means choosing to prioritize them.
- True community includes accountability — not to shame or control, but to guide and encourage one another toward love and good deeds, as described in Hebrews 10.
- Loneliness is a growing crisis even in a highly connected world. Technology and even artificial intelligence cannot replace the grace, forgiveness, and genuine presence found in human relationships.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Think of a time when someone showed up for you during a difficult or joyful season of life. What did their presence mean to you? What made it significant?

Digging In

2. The sermon referenced Genesis 2:18, where God says it is not good for man to be alone. What does it tell us about God's character that He designed us to need one another?

3. In John 13, Jesus commands his followers to love one another as evidence of their discipleship. In practical terms, what does that kind of love look like in a small group setting? Where does it feel easy, and where does it feel difficult?

4. The pastor described how 30 to 40 percent of people experience loneliness at least once a week, even in a world more populated and connected than ever. Why do you think more connection has not led to less loneliness? What do you think is missing?

5. The sermon mentioned that the devil uses insecurity to keep us isolated — convincing us that we are the only ones who struggle with certain things, or that people would not like us if they really knew us. Have you ever experienced that kind of thinking? How did you respond to it?

6. The pastor said, "On this side of heaven, there is no perfect community." How does that reality change the way you approach relationships within the church? How does it relate to grace and forgiveness?

7. Hebrews 10 uses the image of spurs to describe how believers should encourage one another — not to cause harm, but to guide toward love and good deeds. What does that kind of accountability look like in a healthy relationship? What makes it feel safe versus threatening?

Personal Reflection

8. Looking at the discipleship diagram referenced throughout this sermon series, where do you sense the Holy Spirit nudging you specifically when it comes to community? Is it about showing up more consistently, going deeper in existing relationships, or allowing others into areas of your life you have kept closed off?

Practical Applications

- **Be intentional about showing up.** If you have drifted from regular participation in a worshiping community, take one concrete step this week to re-engage — whether that is attending a Sunday service, reaching out to someone from your church, or signing up for a group.
- **Go one level deeper.** In your next conversation with a fellow believer, move past the surface topics and ask a more meaningful question. Something as simple as "How are you really doing?" can open a door.
- **Identify one or two people** with whom you could pursue a more honest, accountable relationship. Pray specifically for those people and consider reaching out to them this week.
- **Pray for eyes to see people as God sees them.** The sermon pointed to John 3 and Psalm 34 as reminders that God is near to the brokenhearted. Ask God to make you attentive to the people around you who may be carrying something heavy.
- **For the men in the group:** Consider looking into the men's retreat mentioned in the sermon. Intentional time away with other men for prayer and honest conversation is a direct step toward the kind of community described in this message.

Closing Prayer

Use the pastor's closing prayer as a guide for your group's time of prayer together:

Lord, help us to be people who love each other well. Draw us into real relationships with one another — honest relationships, encouraging relationships. May we speak the truth always in love. May we hold one another accountable always in love. Help us to do that well. Amen.