Connect Study –Living Connected

Read Acts 2:42-47

We noted that in the book of Acts, the disciples met in the temple as well as in homes. One key phrase in that passage was that they had everything in common or should we say they had someone in common—Jesus Christ. He is the cornerstone of our community.

As a connect church, connect groups are our primary avenue for being able to experience genuine community.

1. Isolation is a killer.

In a new study published in the journal “Perspective on Psychological Science”, it looked at 70 studies covering over 3 million people which found that loneliness in a person increases the likelihood of early death by 26%.

Isolation and independence makes us an easy target for the enemy. It opens us up for deception. Proverbs 18:1 (ESV) says whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

Isolation robs us of strength. Ps Jono illustrated this in his sermon showing us how a piece of burning coal would immediately cool down after it was separated from a pile of burning coals.

1. Community takes work

As a church, we need to build a well not a wall.

1. Dig the well

They **devoted** themselves…In Greek, it means to hold fast to, continue in and persevere…

Community is hard work. It is slow, frustrating and people are imperfect. We need to persevere until we build a real sense of community. Dig deep until it hits the water source--Ez 47—life will flourish wherever this water flows. Only life gives birth to life.

1. Pump/prime the well

“They **worshipped** together at the temple **each day/daily**…”Community requires frequency. People who complain about the lack of community are often the ones who don’t attend regularly.

1. Protect the well

In Gen 29—Jacob came to a well…a heavy stone was placed over the mouth of the well. At that time, the well was the source of life especially in the desert. People fought over wells. In Isaac’s time, it said that the Philistines came and filled up the wells that Abraham dug.

We need to protect our connect groups from the attacks of the enemy e.g. offence or gossip.

Discussion questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word “community”?
2. What can you do personally to strengthen community within your connect group?
3. What do you think are the characteristics of a life giving connect group?
4. What are some of the threats to the health of a connect group and what can we do to prevent it?