

# Living in Community

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**Last 2 Weeks – Church Challenge – Hospitality**

**Next 3 Weeks – Call to Community**

- created to live in relationship & community
- God exists in community – made in His image
- not good for man to be alone
  - marriage, family, tribe, nation, church
- discover the desire of God for His children – not do life alone
  - need one another – takes time & intentional effort

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Passage – 1 Samuel 23:15-18

***“While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.”***

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## Simple Observations

### 1. We Need Each Other

- David – man after God’s own heart, great warrior, used to being alone in wilderness, experienced God’s miracles 1<sup>st</sup> hand, anointed by a prophet – needs his friend!
- Jonathan went to help – you are never beyond needing this
- we will face attacks from enemies of God – you will need those to strengthen, help, and encourage you.
- the most mature leaders, disciples, people of faith need to have others to encourage, help and support

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## Scripture is Clear in This Matter

- Eccl. 4:9-10 ***“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”***

- Eph 4:11-12 ***“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”***

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- Galatians 6:2 ***“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”***

- Heb 3:12-13 ***“See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness”***

Heb 10:24-25 ***“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”***

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## 2. Make a Determined Effort

- this is intentional – vs. 16 – made the trip to meet with David
- planned to strengthen and help a friend – effort & intention
- equipped for works of service, building up, carrying one another's burdens, see to it, let us consider, spur on.....
- barriers to this happening
  - apathy, too busy with life, not seeing the priority, pride, unwilling to allow others to help you, unwilling to be affected by what you encounter, deception in thinking

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## 3. Strengthen One Another – In God!

- love this truth
  - not a self confidence speech, not a self help seminar, not an attitude correction, a reminder of God's plan & promise
- truth – when you really help me you say or do something that will cause me to depend on God not me or you.
- find a radical difference in Christian Community – confidence found in God, gifts given by God used for building up, trust and faith not in man's ideas or designs – but in God
- note – impossible to offer without trust and relationship already existing

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- 2 Tim 3:16-17 *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

- 1 Cor. 12:7 *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

## 4. Point To God's Promises

- vs.17 – ‘fear not for..... Saul my father knows this.’

- reminding him of anointing, God's deliverance, God's design for his life.

- what you can depend on is exactly what God has promised



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- note the assumption is you know God's promises, and can recall them to share with others.
- do not promise what God has not
- do not ignore truth about this world and life
- do give encouragement and hope based on truth

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## So What

God's Desire and Design – Life in Community with Others

1. Do Not Be Deceived – We Need One Another

- counter cultural, but biblical and an important truth

2. This requires a determined and intentional effort by you

- make time, decide to live like this, participate with openness

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## So What

3. Called to Use your God given Gifts
  - scripture, spiritual gifts, personal testimony – all given for use
4. Point to God's Promises
  - his character, truth from scripture, promise – can be trusted