



● One of God's biggest dreams for us is authentic community.

11 ...that they may be one, even as we are one. John 17:11 (RSV)

20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:20-21 (NLT)

What Community looks like:

An ongoing mutual admiration = Selfless.

We need to understand:

● God created you in, and hardwired you for, community.

26 God spoke: Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature...Genesis 1:26 (MSG)

● Authentic Community is a heart issue.

22 Now you can have real love for everyone because your souls have been cleansed from selfishness and hatred when you trusted Christ to save you; so see to it that you really do love each other warmly, with all your hearts. 1 Peter 1:22 (TLB)

● Authentic Community is a verb.

● Authentic Community is "How" we do life together.

46 They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness... Acts 2:46 (TLB)

● Authentic Community is "Why" we do life together.

17 Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced.

18 You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. James 3:17-18 (MSG)

Why Community is important:

● Because love is worked out though tension.

- 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud
- 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.
- 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
- 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

● Because God is in community.

20 And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." Matthew 18:20 (MSG)

5 His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to! Ephesians 1:5 (TLB)

● Because God meets our needs in community.

1 Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status.

2 Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" Romans 15:1-2 (MSG)

● Because God shapes us in community.

16 Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. James 5:16 (MSG)

10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NLT)

We are cared for best, by those that know us most.

Have Questions? Text them to: (559)464-5754

Here are some questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

Connection Group Leaders: During this series give your Connection Group a Camp feel. Maybe add Games, Projects, crafts, amores around a campfire, etc.

- What spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Why are relationships so important to our spiritual growth?
- One of God's biggest desires for us is to experience authentic community... in your own words, what is authentic community and why is it so important?
- Obviously you are in a Connection Group. How would you communicate the value of Connection Groups to some that doesn't attend one currently?
- How is authentic community a verb? What are some of the activities that bring us together in spirit?
- Discuss the points under "Why community is important".
- Which of these points have you experienced most in community? Explain.
- What are some ways that we can enhance our experience with authentic community at the Quest?

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