



This Weeks movie is: **“SANDLOT”**

We’re looking at: **“The Relationships we really need.”**

- We were created to live in community.

18 It isn’t good for man to be alone... Genesis 2:18 (TLB)

- We have a need to belong.

Relationships can provide:

- Acceptance we’re longing for.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

- Appreciation that shows we’re valued.

16 And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. Hebrews 13:16 (NLT)

- Protection for our blind spots.

4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. Psalm 82:4 (NIV)

- Support for when we’re weak.

9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble... 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

Community is more than:

- The number of friendships I have.

- Going to church on Sundays.

- The family we’re close to.

- Community is a trust 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)

- Community is a commitment issue.

Partially belonging in two places can be as isolating and lonely as not belonging anywhere.

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)

Community gives us:

- A group of people that stretch us spiritually.

12 I need your help, for I want not only to share my faith with you but to be encouraged by yours: Each of us will be a blessing to the other. Romans 1:12 (TLB)

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)

- A group of people that know us intimately.

..you are members of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

- A group of people that care for us consistently.

God has put the body together... so that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (RSV)

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

- A group of people doing life together.



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Have you seen the movie “Sandlot”? What do you think of the movie? Was there a clip from the movie you liked? Why?
- Why do you think so many people never experience real, Biblical, community? In your opinion, what are two things you love about Connection Groups? How do you experience community in Connection Groups?
- What are some things, not listed here, that relationships can provide?
- Do you agree that Community comes from Trusting Christ? Explain why you think that. (Read 1 Peter 1:22)
- Do you believe that community is a byproduct of our commitment? Explain.
- How do Connection Groups stretch you spiritually?
- Do you believe that people in your Connection group know you intimately? How did that happen? Why is that important to a growing spiritual life?
- Are you cared for by your Connection Group? Explain.
- How does your Connection Group “Do Life Together”?
- If Connection Groups are that important, how can we get more leaders and groups started? Are you willing to lead a group?

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