

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Up In Out - IN

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Introduction

Community was important to Jesus. From the outset of his ministry, Jesus invited people into his life and they walked together throughout his ministry. Jesus was very intentional and inclusive in building community. He invited people who were on the fringes of society, and these people in turn invited many others into community.

Bible Passage

Reading: John 4:1-30

Discussion

1. Jesus was always intentional in building authentic relationships. He did so with the Samaritan woman. Where and how many times can you see Jesus being intentional in today's reading? What other passages can you think of that show his intentionality?
2. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, he knew from the beginning that he would make them fishers of men. Read Mark 3:14. What was his intention when he called the twelve? In the midst of this pandemic, how can your Life Group be more intentional in caring for one another?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13. The way of the Kingdom, as we see from Jesus' example, is creating community by breaking down barriers with people who are not like ourselves. How is this different from the way our world or society works? What could hinder you from becoming more inclusive?
4. Read John 4:7-10. In this invitation to engage with the woman, Jesus demonstrated vulnerability by breaking the social norm (verse 9). Is it easy or hard for you to be vulnerable? Why do we need to take the risk of being vulnerable to invite people into community?

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5. Read Acts 2:42-47. Consider the way the disciples did community and how the Lord added to their fellowship. How might your Life Group use this time to be on the front foot?
6. Read John 4:39-42. Jesus calls us into community not for our own sake, but so that we can bring the Good News and offer community to others. What do you think of the outcome of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman?

Respond

Jesus had twelve people that were closest to him, but he did not close that circle. He constantly invited others to experience relationship and authentic community. Life Group is a place for people to be part of smaller communities at Crossway. How can you and your group be more intentional about inviting people into the group? What is one thing your group is doing well in this regard? What is one thing that could be done differently or better?