



Community | Andrew Matrone | 9.7.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is your favorite band or recording artist of all time and why are they the best?

SHARE

Our church exists to make Heaven more crowded by welcoming home prodigals! We desire to be a front porch where people feel welcomed into the house that God is building. The front porch always leads into a home and the unique thing about the body of Christ is that we are the family for each and every person; we are truly brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our hope is that Red Rocks is a place where everyone feels like they are a part of the family. No matter who you are, where you are from, where you've been, or what you've done, we want you to feel at home. No church does this perfectly, and we know we still have a long way to go, but we are committed to working toward this goal together. This week we are talking about being a part of the family, helping people move from just attending to truly belonging, and that happens through true community with one another. It can feel awkward, scary and sometimes messy, but it is how God designed each of us to live. Each of us has a gift that is needed among God's people and each of us is worthy of knowing and being known.

What would you say are the major reasons that research that points out that we are the most technologically connected generation, yet loneliness is an epidemic?

GROW

Read Acts 2:42-47

God created us in relationship, and for relationship. We can see this from the very beginning when God masterfully created all things for His glory and for our good. Relationships have always been God's plan to make Himself known. We see in this passage where intentional and deep community IS possible! These people lived life together; in the good, the bad and the ugly. And Christ was made known because of the way they loved one another (John 13:35). This is how the Christian Church began. People loved one another with a never-giving-up kind of love. This is what we are called into, we just have to have the courage to step into it.

Have you ever been a part or seen this type of community? If so, share with your group.

We are created to be in intentional community and this takes work (a lot of work) and for many of us, this can be scary. We all have past experiences that have become a part of our stories. But to experience deep community you have to keep showing up; show up when things are good, and keep showing up when things are really hard. Because deep, intentional relationships require us to remain in the fight. God gives us so much grace to do this. He gives us the courage and hope to experience deep connection. This is possible for us just as it was in the early Church!

Have you ever experienced someone that kept showing up in your life? What did that look like and did this help bring a new perspective on intentional relationships?

Can you imagine what God will do within us, our groups, our community and our city because we had the courage to keep showing up for one another? People will know that there is something different and they will come to know Jesus by the way we serve and love one another!

In what ways would you like to experience this in your life? In your family? In your group? In your community?

M O V E

Let's read Genesis 2:18 and Proverbs 27:17

What does it say about the value of community, that even when Adam was living in a perfect world and a right relationship with God, God that it was not good for him to be alone, but needed a companion?

What do you think the difference between just “ok relationships” and actual “iron sharpens iron” relationships?

Throughout this week’s message, Andrew spoke about how God designed us to be intentional, that we have more in common with each other than we will ever know. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to be hospitable and help meet the practical needs of God’s family in community.

Look at the following areas, which one do you most need to address in your own life and how do you think you could take a step towards becoming more like Jesus in that area?

- **Being more intentional with your community and relationships.**
- **Associating with and identifying with all people from all walks of life and including them.**
- **Being hospitable and opening your home to gather people, feed them, and welcome them.**
- **Finding ways to practically love people in your neighborhood, condo, or apartment.**

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

