

Find Family | Ethan Matott | 01.16.22

Weekly Study

START

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

What was the best food you had over your holiday break?

SHARE

Welcome back and Happy 2022! This week, Ethan continued our four part series to kick off the New Year in the middle of our corporate fast. He spoke to one of four ways we can thrive in our faith here at Red Rocks: finding family. Community is essential to following Jesus and as Doug always says, “your friends may be the reason you’re still following Jesus in the next few years”. Find the friends who will hold you accountable to the Way, and don’t give up on community when relationships get hard which they always will on this side of eternity.

What is one thing you’re fasting for this season?

How has your relationship with Jesus changed within the first week of fasting?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Read Luke 10:38-42

Why was Mary's choice the better response to Jesus?

How does Jesus's response resonate with Ethan's message?

In this passage, we see Jesus challenge Martha with both grace and truth. Truth on what Jesus *actually* desires from us, and grace that sets her free from the doing. Mary had "chosen what was better" (v. 42) because she resorted to being in the presence of God over striving for the approval of God. While Martha chose the former, Jesus showed her the latter.

Jesus's both bold and loving response plays into Ethan's message from Sunday. Part of finding family is finding a community who seek out the best in you, which includes holding the harder conversations. Sharing truth through relationship that will rattle the chains off of you into freedom. Jesus challenged Martha who had probably put an immense amount of effort into preparing a meal for him. Though probably appreciated, Martha's efforts weren't what pleased Jesus: it was Martha's being. Mary would gain more of what was needed over Martha just by sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus's words can come across as harsh at first, however, his words would heal Martha. They would relieve her of her duties, and propel her into what her soul actually needed: solitude with Jesus. Just as Jesus, we too can use our words to surface the best in each other through community. Jesus models this example, not just in this story, but throughout the Gospel on how to love people in both grace and truth.

What area of your life do you need community to speak into?

How would your life change if you had more accountability in it?

M O V E

Hebrews 10:24-25

What is your takeaway from this passage?

What are some ways we can spur on one another?

God created us to be in community. We are relational beings who thrive in relationships with others. And not just any type of relationships, but life-giving and encouraging relationships. This passage points to the kind of community we should not only try to be, but to find and surround

ourselves with. Community that spurs each other on and is able to be both fully known and fully loved.

Spurs, if used correctly, do not actually hurt or harm the horse in any way. They are used as a motivator to encourage the horse in the right direction. In this week's message, Ethan gave us 5 keys to finding family:

1. Jesus found family - He actively pursued it.
2. Jesus was fully present - He valued being connected.
3. Jesus practiced solitude - He knew God was his source.
4. Jesus wasn't a "yes" friend - He held others accountable.
5. Jesus didn't expect perfection - He extended grace.

Which key to finding family is the most difficult one for you to live out?

What is one step you can take this week to find family?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

- *"A man who isolates himself seeks his own desires; he rages against all wise judgment. Some people live alone because friends and families have abandoned them." - Proverbs 18:1*