

# THE JOURNEY IS THE DESTINATION

## - LEADERS GUIDE -

### Chapter 10: Pursue Relationships

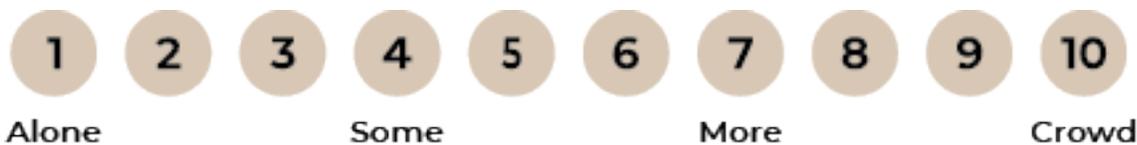
*Way to go! You've made it to the last installment. Thanks for digging in and working through these chapters together.*

*When it comes to people everyone has a different take. People are messy, complicated and uncontrollable. This is why relationships can be so tough. No doubt, in your group you've experienced some of this reality and will again this evening. Here we go.*

*"We are a people created for relationship. We each need it differently, but we each need it equally. Someone might find the idea of being isolated for some amount of time attractive or even comforting, but we weren't intended to live in isolation from people." (p. 146)*

1. On the following scale, where are you most comfortable in the area of having people around you? Explain.

*Sometimes this isn't as obvious as you might think. I, for instance, have some tendencies both directions. I like being around people - but need some alone me time. It will be interesting to see how the group responds.*



2. How are you affected when your "people comfort zone" is breached? (If you need people around you and you find yourself alone - or - you need less people and there is too many people around you)

*Figuring out how we respond is important. Recognizing it before we lose our balance is the idea. Isolation often leads to depression. It would be good to notice it before depression sets in. Overcrowding can lead to becoming overwhelmed or even numb.*

3. What are the dangers of being too isolated? What are the dangers in being constantly saturated with people?

*What happens if you need community - friends - quality people with whom you can share life but don't have them? This is a very real thing for a ton of people. Some people feel really beat up over this. They've tried and still can't find someone. Please be understanding of this. Help focus attention on all of us becoming the person someone is looking for - and the fact that God knows and will continue to work on our behalf.*

*The solution? Invest. But the trick isn't holding up a sign for people to join you or joining a community group at church in hopes you'll find the right people. You start by becoming the kind of person Christians want to be around. You might find those people in a community group, but you won't find them until you become a person with whom people want to join forces." (p. 149)*

4. What characteristics would you have if you want to become a person others seek for community?

*Some potential answers - growing people attract people - be encouraging, optimistic, humble, caring, quick to listen, safe (nonjudgmental and one who doesn't share other's private stuff).*

Perhaps the ultimate example of biblical community is found in the early days of the church. We can probably learn a lot from their story. Read the following verses - carefully - then answer the questions.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.  
— Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

*Most of us struggle even finding five times to meet for this study. "I don't have time" is the number one reason people give for not investing in a faith community. People are busy - that's for sure. The people in Acts 2 were too. They didn't even have a fridge or a microwave. They didn't live the way they did out of convenience - but out of priority.*

5. Sometimes it's hard to remember that these were normal people. These people, like us, still had to care for the kids, do laundry, earn a living, clean the house, make dinner, etc. Even with all the normal life stuff they seemed to make time for the things listed in the verses too. How do you think they pulled this off?

*They didn't add faith to their life. They built their lives around faith. It was their priority. They fought for it.*

6. List the things that became part of their faith community. (i.e. they were together, they shared, shared...)

*They spent time together, shared everything, sold, gave, met, learned, ate, worshipped, praised.*

7. Being a Christ-follower in this day made you a bit of an endangered species. Their beliefs didn't put them in the mainstream, however, they found favor with all the people around them and added to their numbers daily. How did their faith community differ from most faith communities today? Do you think people responded differently then than they do now? Why?

*Their faith community wasn't a stop by on Sunday if you have time kind of lifestyle. Partly, their survival was at stake, but also they were passionate about their faith. There was often a cost to being a Christ follower so you probably took it pretty seriously. They were seen in the community as different. Not bad, just different. The community had never seen people care about each other this way. They had witnessed religion which was pretty stale and harsh. This was a group of people living what they believed, not just discussing it. It was attractive and desirable Today - well, you be the judge. I'm not sure most people feel like they are missing much if they remain apart from the Christian community.*

Over the last five weeks we have looked at the five gears 1. Pursue Identity, 2. Pursue God, 3. Pursue Truth, 4. Pursue Authenticity, and 5. Pursue Relationships...

8. If you were to rate these areas of your life, which gear would be the strongest for you? Which one needs the most attention?

9. What is one thing you want to take away from this study?

*If possible lead this one by example. I will do so now. When I did the 3 day challenge - I was really struck how difficult it was to keep seeing every person the way Jesus does. Seeing their potential before reading their cover. Also, the second day - seeing every event with the understanding that God is up to more than I know. Instead of being frustrated by the interruptions or distractions - trying to lean into them assuming God was up to something. When I did it - my days were much more meaningful. Staying consistent was tough.*