

EAT – Living In Community

Introduction:

We live in a society that is becoming more and more individualistic. We often feel like there is not enough time to live life together. But the narrative of the New Testament is that following Jesus is not done in isolation, but in community. God's family is meant to be the "show and tell" of what true belonging and love looks like. God's one plan for reaching the world involves a community of broken people who gather with a desire to love him and make Jesus known in the world.

Scriptures:

Read Acts 2v42-47 and Hebrews 10v24-25

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Describe a meaningful and robust community experience in your life. What made it meaningful? What were the essential ingredients?
- 2. How would you describe your community these days? What elements are missing? What elements are present?
- 3. Describe what it looks like for you to maintain ongoing community with people in different parts of the world. What have been some of the challenges?
- 4. What gets in the way of community and friendship for you these days? If you were to identify your top 3 barriers to community, what would they be?
- 5. Imagine for a moment the kind of community experience God desires for you to have. What does it look like? How does it feel? What would you need to change to move one step closer to Jesus' hopes for you, as it relates to community?

Experiment: (Choose One)

- 1. Each morning prayerfully invite God to help you love someone in your community. At the end of the day, prayerfully reflect how it went. Did you respond to the opportunities God gave you? After 5 days, journal about the experience.
- 2. A huge part of community is bearing one another's burdens. What are 3 burdens that you have that you can share with someone in your community? Talk with someone in your community about this.

Pod Discussion:

- 1. As you listened to the podcast (watched the video), what struck you or stood out to you?
- 2. What was your experience of the experiment like? Was it enjoyable? Uncomfortable? Did you notice anything about yourself, God or the world?
- 3. Is God inviting you to change anything in the way you do your life?

