

Pre-Trip: Session One – Community

What comes to mind when you think of community?

What is your community?

A community is not just a church or the places we live, play, work, or go to school; a community is where real life happens. It doesn't even have to be a place because community can be a person(s) – in short, a community is when we share life together.

Who would you say is your community?

God created community.

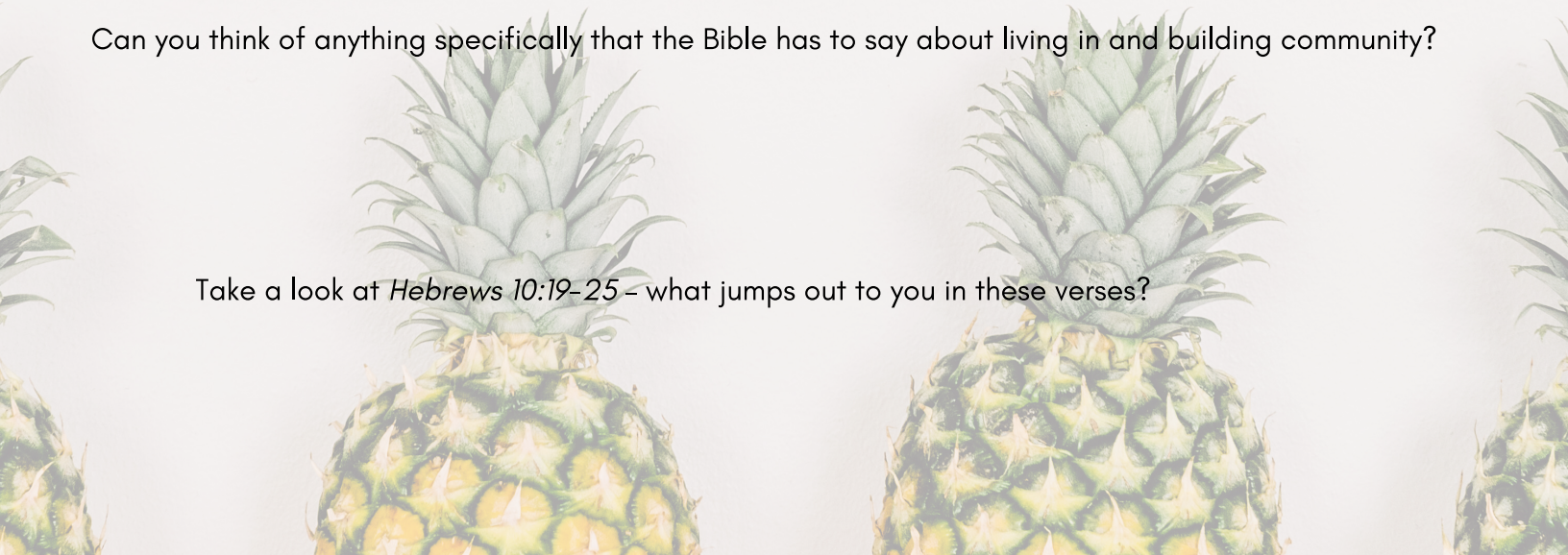
He was so intentional about us not being alone that it is talked about in the Bible time and time again. But, how tempting is it for us to constantly try to handle things on our own? We believe lies like, 'I don't need anyone else', 'I don't want to be a bother', or 'I'm strong enough alone'.

The reality is that we were never made to be alone, but rather, to experience life together – to struggle together and to share joys together. Scientific studies even show that we as humans were made as relational beings – it actually physically shows in the makeup of our brain (how cool is that?!).

Community is one of God's most generous gifts to us.

Can you think of anything specifically that the Bible has to say about living in and building community?

Take a look at *Hebrews 10:19-25* – what jumps out to you in these verses?



So what does living in community with one another look like? If we seek to live like Jesus did, how did He live in community?

- Was His time spent only with those just like Him?
- Did He ask what each of His relationships has to offer Him?
- Were His relationships projects for Him to fix?

No, He simply loved on all He came in contact with, no exceptions.

Hebrews 10:24-25 – And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Romans 12:16 – Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low positions. Do not be conceited.

One of the most beautiful things about community is the way God placed each of us in them for specific purposes. A community is made up of people who have at least one thing in common (job, location, language, religion, interest, etc.) but who come together with their own gifts and experiences.

1 Peter 4:8-11 – Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

What are some of your gifts that you think God has given you?

How can you be blessing your community with your gifts?

What are some ways that you can use these gifts on your trip in Jamaica?



NOTES:

