

Better Together  
Week's Reading: Mark 1:35-39, Hebrews 10:19-25  
Discussion Guide, November 21, 2021

**CHECK UP:**

Memory Work Review: But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 20-21

In what ways did you "contend for the faith" this past week?

**OPEN:**

- Would you rather...
  - o Attend the party or stay home in the peace and quiet?
  - o Live in/near the city or out in the sticks?
  - o Be stranded on an island alone for the rest of your life or share a home with another family for the rest of your life?
  
- When it comes to the Christian life, do you primarily think of it as an individual ambition or a communal adventure?
  
- In what ways did Jesus live in community?
  - o What does it mean to you that Jesus could have lived his life as an individual and yet chose to live in community?
  
- How did the early church live in community?

**READ and ASK: Mark 1:35-39, Hebrews 10:19-25**

- Respond and discuss this statement: *Jesus lived in community and pursued special incremental "individual time" while we often live as individuals and pursue incremental "community time."*
  - o Does this challenge you?
  - o Why do you think Jesus chose to live in community?
  - o Why do you think western people are often resistant to genuine community? (doing life together)
  
- Randy Frazee argues that we often read the Bible with a "me theology" rather than a "we theology". How do you think this is true? (consider all of the times the Bible uses language such as "let US", or "ONE ANOTHER").

- How does Hebrews 10 use “life together” language?
  - o How does it encourage doing life together?
- What is the difference between going to church together and doing life together? How should they work together?

**APPLY:**

- Do you really believe that life is better together? Why? (or why not?)
- How has living in Christian community benefited you? How have you benefited others?
  - o In what particular ways are you thankful for your Christian community?
  - o NEXT STEP(S): What steps do you need to take to truly live life “together:?”

Memory Work:

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.

- Hebrews 10:24-25