

## KICKING IT OFF

Would you describe yourself as someone who craves community or as someone who operates with a more independent and self-sufficient perspective? Discuss how you came to be the way you are currently.

## BIG IDEA

We were created for community and we all need somebody to lean on.



## KEY SCRIPTURES

### **Ecclesiastes 4:8**

*"There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth."For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment? This too is meaningless—a miserable business!"*

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12**

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."*

### **Acts 2:42-47**

*"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 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."*

## DISCUSSION

1. Read Ecclesiastes 4:8. Discuss what may have transpired to lead this man to come to his conclusion of discontentment.
2. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12. Discuss what attitudes, beliefs or practices that exist in our current culture that might discourage community or foster self-sufficiency.
3. It was said in Sunday's message that God hates aloneness and that self-sufficiency is masked isolation. Discuss how that plays out in people's life. In your own life?
4. What dangers exist when people live in isolation?
5. Read Acts 2:42-47. If God's plan is for nobody to be alone, but for everyone to be known, loved, cared for and cherished, how did the early church, that is the ekklesia or gathering of God's people, remedy that, as seen in this passage?
6. How have you seen or experienced that being carried out today?
7. God's intent is to carry out His plan as people are reconciled to God through Jesus' message of love being lived out authentically in community with one another. What is your role as part of God's church in carrying out that mission?

## WRAPPING IT UP

The primary way that Sunnybrook seeks to carry out this mission is through small groups. If you are not currently connected in a group, either a small group, growth group or support group, head out to our website at [sunnybrookchurch.org](http://sunnybrookchurch.org), check out the groups, and take a step toward community.

## PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for our Fall ministry launches, and for every person who attends or watches our services to get connected in some kind of biblical community here.

## MEMORY VERSE

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”*

***Ecclesiastes 4:9-10***

