

Week Three - *Connectedness*
Ecclesiastes 4:8-12

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Finish this sentence: "God designed me to be _____." What kinds of traits and desires did God give you?
2. Now look up Genesis 1:26. Why do you think God uses plural language in this verse to describe Himself?
3. We believe that the one God is made up of three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This means that there has always been a divine community, three persons connected into one divine essence. Based on this truth, what trait do you think God meant specifically by creating human beings "in our image"?
4. God has a loving relationship as the core part of His essence. What kind of relationship do you think God desires to have with us?
5. Read John 15:1-5. How does the quality and output of your life change based on your relationship with God?
6. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying that God would support and strengthen you through your relationship with Him.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

7. Picture a perfect weekend for relaxing. With whom would you want to be enjoying it? Explain your choice.
8. Almost the first thing God ever said about humans was, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). What do you think that means about us and our relationships today?
9. Look specifically at Genesis 2:18 and 2:20. What adjective is used in both places to describe the function of this relationship?
10. Take a moment and think about the various relationships in your life. Write down any people who you would consider to be helpers. With whom do you share life who encourages and strengthens you?
11. Now flip it around. With whom are you fulfilling your relational duty of helping? Who is stronger and more encouraged in his or her life because of you?
12. Close your FIFTEEN by praying for the important relationships in your life. Ask God to use you to be a helper in the

lives of others.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

13. Which would you rather have: a million dollars or a true friend? Why was this an easy choice?

14. Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-8. What is the irony that Solomon is describing in this passage?

15. Have you known anyone like the man described in this verse? What were the circumstances?

16. Now read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. What are some of the benefits of living in community with others?

17. If you were to fall down, who is there in your life right now who would help pick you back up? How are you able to be certain of this person?

18. This Bible passage is often used in weddings. But now that you've evaluated it a little bit, what do you think its main application is supposed to be?

19. End your FIFTEEN by praying and committing to God that you will reach out this week to another person and offer your support or help if they ever need it.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

20. Would the world be better or worse off if everyone were just like you? Why do you think so?

21. What benefit do all our differences in personality and abilities have?

22. Read Romans 12:3-5. What is the end goal of all of our unique differences?

23. As you think with sober judgment (v.3) about yourself, what gift (or gifts) do you think God has given you?

24. How do you currently use those gifts for the sake of the community around you?

25. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying that God would use you to uniquely contribute to the good of others in your sphere

of influence.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

26. If you could fix one thing about the Christian church, what would it be? Why did you pick that thing?

27. Read one of Jesus' final prayers for His church, before He was crucified, in John 17:20-26. What one thing did He desire for His church?

28. How well do you think we, as a church, have honored Christ's wish?

29. What would need to change for the bride of Christ (the church) to be unified? What role would you have to play in that solution?

30. Close your FIFTEEN in prayer, praying the words of the Apostles' Creed and asking for the communion of saints in all the churches who worship the name of Jesus Christ.