



Week 9- How to Experience Authentic Community: Part 1

Introduction:

Why do so many good and sincere Christians get “spiritually stuck?” They love God, they want to grow, they have seen some measure of spiritual transformation, but they “stall,” they hit a spiritual ceiling. Some habits or attitudes seem to never change. Trying hard and making “re-commitments” last only for a short time. What do you do when you’re spiritually stuck?

The greatest seed, in the greatest soil, cannot grow in the wrong environment.

- The _____ of Jesus requires a very specific spiritual ecosystem.

John 13:34-35

- The _____ of Jesus’ ministry to develop His disciples demands a specific ecosystem.

Mark 3:13-14

- The _____ of the early church and its impact argue for a specific ecosystem.

Acts 2:42-47

- The _____ of the Church, past and present, confirms a specific ecosystem for spiritual growth and transformation.

The Spiritual Environment: _____.

The form this system takes is: _____.

A critical distinction: _____ **DO NOT NECESSARILY**

EQUAL _____

The principle: We must be engaged in the spiritual ecosystem
of authentic community for spiritual maturity to occur.

Two big questions:

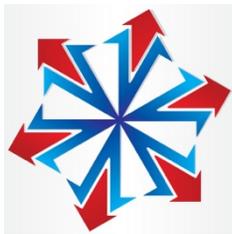
1. What is authentic community?
2. How do you get it?



Talk It Over:

Considering Romans 12:9-13, what small steps could this group take to become more of a great community than just a small group?

Share of a time when you needed the support of good friends / community to make it through a difficult time...



Live It Out- B.I.O.

B = COME “BEFORE GOD” DAILY

Meet with Him personally through prayer and His word to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

I = DO LIFE “IN COMMUNITY” WEEKLY

Structure your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.

O = BE “ON MISSION” 24/7

Cultivate a mindset to live out Jesus’ love for others through acts of sacrifice as well as service at home, work, play, and church.

COME BEFORE GOD

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

What stands out to you from these verses? What insights from this passage would apply to experiencing authentic community together as a church / group?

DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

What would be something from Romans 12:9-13 that this specific group could focus on?

BE ON MISSION

What is one need that you are aware of, inside or outside of your group, that you could personally meet?



Thinking Locally...

How does today's study apply to Heartland's mission to: "Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples?"

How can this study speak into the concept of your "praying, investing and inviting" to help Heartland be all that it can be for the Kingdom of God and our community?
