



## COMMIT TO COMMUNITY

### Designing Your Life (Part 5)

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#### *Exodus 18:1-23*

#### **PREPARE**

Share one thing you have come to appreciate about your group and its influence on your life.

#### **OPEN**

What communities (or circles of relationships) have been most impactful on your life? Why do you think they were so influential?

#### **DISCUSS**

Read Exodus 18:1-23.

- Describe the influence of Moses' in-laws in this passage (and earlier in Exodus?)
- How did Jethro challenge Moses? Why did he challenge him?
- What is the hope and vision of community in this passage (ref 18:22b-23).

"One of the most important tasks of life is becoming self-aware about how we have been shaped by all the communities we've been a part of – but especially our family of origin." –Dan Meyer

- Two Blessings and a Challenge: Can you name two blessings you received from your first community (your family growing up) and one challenge you have carried forward with you in life?

Do you feel more spiritual growth (growing into the character and call of Christ) happens when one is connected in authentic Christian community or by doing the journey of life and faith alone? Explain.

As you read the Scriptures, it is evident that God is passionate about community and close circles of relationships. From Israel's history, to Jesus' teaching, to the life of the early church, intentionally engaging those around you is at the core of the Christian life. As you consider the power and need for deeper community in the church (and even your life), discuss how your group can be more intentional in the following areas:

- How can we expand our circle to invite someone we know into God's work in our group? (Get tangible. Pray for people to come.)
- Take your role in the group more seriously. Help one another grow, to live into their call and design. Find ways to encourage, serve, and love one another. What can you do more of?
- Ask yourself if it is time to not just expand the circle, but to create new circles of community to multiply the *community impact* at the church and beyond. Are a few people in the group ready (with help) to take a step in starting a new community?

Close your time in prayer. Give each person who chooses an opportunity to pray with one person designated to close the prayer. Ask God to do far more than you can imagine through the influence and power of your community.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Read and reflect on the Scripture passages in this study.
- Be specific on how you can take action with one or more of the group questions above.

### **DESIGNING YOUR LIFE WORKSHOP: NOV 6-7<sup>th</sup>**

We will host a workshop (November 6-7) to give time and attention to *Pursuing Purpose Together*. From hearing real-life testimonies of call and purpose to beginning to write YOUR story of purpose, this experience will give you time and space to answer some of life's important questions connected to *design and purpose*. Bring your whole group.

More info and registration can be found at: <http://www.cc-ob.org/groupevents>