

If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.” We are not designed to travel the spiritual journey by ourselves. We need community to practice the Way. And Jesus’ call to community goes far beyond church attendance to relationships of depth, vulnerability, and a commitment to transformation.

Jesus’ invitation was to come and do life together. Through Jesus, we have been adopted into the family of God. Jesus’ desire is not just to form you into a person of love, but to form a community of love. You can’t follow Jesus alone; spiritual formation is a relational process.

What does the word community invoke in your mind?

Has there been a time in your life when the ideal of community was real?

Four layers of community*:

Intimates: 1-5 people who deeply know and love us.

Friends: 15 people with whom we do life.

Village: 150 people, the maximum we can be in relationship with

Tribe: The larger group we identify with and belong to.

Read Philippians 2:1-13

1. Verses 1–2, What motivations does Paul list for unity in the body of Christ?
2. What does it mean to be “like-minded” and “one in spirit and of one mind”?

3. Where do you find it difficult to be “of one mind” with other believers? What might help?
4. People often want the benefits of a healthy community, but without the cost. Of the three relational characteristics named (depth, vulnerability, and a commitment to transformation), which is the hardest for you?
5. What might “consider others better than yourselves” look like in daily life or church community?
6. Verses 5–8, What is the “mindset of Christ Jesus” that Paul calls believers to imitate?
7. How does Jesus’ humility contrast with common cultural values about status and power?
8. What are some practical ways we can build community by “look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others”?
9. Verses 9–11, What is the response to Jesus’ humility and obedience?
10. What does this teach us about the relationship between humility and exaltation in God’s kingdom?
11. How does recognising “it is God who works in you” affect your approach to community life and spiritual growth?
12. Each person write down one phrase that describes Jesus’ attitude (e.g., obedient, servant-hearted, self-giving). Discuss how each of these attitudes could shape your relationships this week.

Prayer Points

Please pray for Youth work in the church. Pray for Braam, Debi and the team as both serve and reach out to those in Bexhill and elsewhere.

Pray for Dr Abdelkerim, the Hospital Director at Bardaï Hospital, Chad. Pray that he will have energy for the multiple jobs he does at the hospital, and that more staff will be hired to help him.

Sermon Notes



BIBLE STUDY

November 16th 2025

Practicing the Way:

Life Together

Philippians 2:1-13

Following Jesus has been likened to a long journey. When Jesus invited His first disciples to “follow” Him on the “way,” He was simultaneously saying that discipleship to Him is a lifelong path of learning. This series is designed to help you become more familiar with the journey of spiritual formation, help you get unstuck if you’ve stalled, or just guide you into being more confident to help others in their journey. Ultimately, its goal is to train you to live as an apprentice or disciple of Jesus: to be with Jesus, become like Him, and do as He did.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001