

This Sunday marked the finale of our church-wide study "40 Days of Community." Pastor Sharon summarizes the main truths we all learned. In a word, Sharon points out that life in Christ is all about doing everything together with our fellow believers. We are designed for "community." Jesus, himself, reminds us in Matthew 18 that, wherever two or more believers come together with faith in Him, He promises to be there with them. We're not designed for solo living. Sharon reminds us that we belong to each other and we thrive with each other. We can never reach our full potential alone.

Doing "life" with other people and involving yourself in their lives takes you out of your comfort zone. It costs you something to be open and involved, but as we have learned in our small groups during this time of study, it is always well worth the effort. Every small group has seen its members grow spiritually as they have been challenged to open up their lives to others. Our sharing and caring for each other, and the projects we have done to benefit others have released God's power in our lives. Because we made the effort to help others, the lives of those people we have ministered to as a small group have been touched by God. Can you think of some aspects of yourself that have become more developed in the process of studying God's plan for His people?

Sharon reminds you that you have a built-in need to serve others and to be served by others. God has designed you in such a way that serving someone else helps prevent your being overcome by selfishness. If you are willing to let God use you, He will! God is not only looking for the "able" person, He is looking for you to be an "available" person. He has a plan for what He has built into you, a partnership for "life" (abundant life!).

The 40 Days of Community taught us that it does not really matter what we SAY. What really matters to God is what we DO! He has specially designed us to fit in with others who share our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Together, we are much greater than either of us is alone. We are all part of the "body of." Every part is absolutely necessary to His "body", the church, just as your own body parts are all necessary to your physical well being. Will you continue to involve yourself with friends in a small group now that the church-wide study is concluded? Will you continue to let God polish you there as you study His Word and share your life with others? Will you allow Him to continue to refine you until you reflect His glory to the world around you?