

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

## **TAKING IT HOME**

1. One of the reasons that community is so important is because we cannot accomplish God's purposes in the world on our own! In what ways has being involved with a church family equipped you or given you the opportunity to share God's grace with the world?

2. Jeremiah said that *"If nobody knows what you're REALLY LIKE, then they don't REALLY LIKE YOU! There is no healing in hiding!"* Why is honesty such an important aspect of authentic community? What barriers keep you from being truly honest and vulnerable with people in your life?

3. When we really know each other - the good, the bad, and the ugly - it always requires GRACE to maintain unity! In what ways have others extended grace to you when you needed it most? Is there anyone in your life right now that you need to extend grace to?

4. The power of community is often found in the power of "ME TOO"! It's knowing that you never suffer or celebrate alone! When you look at your life during times of suffering or celebration, who do you see there with you?

5. You will never DRIFT into authentic community - you have to cultivate it. What intentional step are you willing to take to make sure that you are cultivating community with other followers of Jesus in your life?

# MESSAGE NOTES

## **You Matter // Week 4**

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"...I will build my church, & not even death will be able to overcome it." - Matthew 16:18*

**We were created by God for \_\_\_\_\_ community!**

*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..." Genesis 1:26*

### **4 truths about authentic community:**

**1. Authentic community always requires \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Hebrews 10:23-25*

**2. Authentic community always requires \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. James 5:16*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17*

**3. Authentic community always requires \_\_\_\_\_.**

*In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, Barbarian or Scythian, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Colossians 3:11-15*

**4. Authentic community always provides \_\_\_\_\_.**

*All the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26*

