

Connected and Protected

2024-09-09 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Ecclesiastes says two are better than one, and Solomon means it plainly: two finish the work faster, keep each other warm, and pick each other up when one falls. Pastor Matt put it in animal terms: a flock survives what a stray does not, and isolation is the enemy's favorite strategy. Real community takes time to get close, and most people quit before it does. And happiness that never gets shared turns out not to be happiness at all.

To get started

- Who would you call at two in the morning, and would they pick up?

Looking back at the message

The Alone show illustration lands: people get desperate for company as the elements close in.

- 1 Pastor Matt described the survival show Alone, where contestants grow desperate for human connection as winter closes in. What is weighing on you right now?
- 2 Pastor Matt warned that a close group never feels close at first, because closeness takes time. When have you quit a group before it got there?
- 3 Pastor Matt said singing along in your car is fun, but worship in a room full of believers is something more. What is the difference for you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 slowly. Each verse names a different benefit.

- 4 Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. List the four benefits Solomon names.
- 5 Verse 12 mentions a cord of three strands. Who is the third strand?
- 6 Read Galatians 6:2. What law gets fulfilled by carrying each other's burdens?
- 7 Read Acts 2:42-47. What did the earliest church actually do together? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Receiving help is harder than giving it for most people in the room.

- 8 Which is harder for you: carrying someone else's burden, or letting them carry yours?
Why?
- 9 What have you been handling alone that you do not have to?
- 10 Pastor Matt said happiness that never gets shared turns out not to be happiness at all.
How have you found that true?
- 11 What would have to change in your schedule for a few people to genuinely know you?

OPTIONAL

The group together

This is a message about the group itself. Let it get concrete.

- 12 What would it take for this group to be the one that surrounds someone in a crisis?
- 13 What keeps this group from being closer than it is?
- 14 Who is missing from this table who should be invited?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you will stop carrying alone, and who will you tell first?

You might pray about

- For anyone in the group who feels isolated
- For the humility to accept help
- For this group to become genuinely close over time