

together.

Session 5

The Purpose of Community

Day 01

Devotional

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Be still

Read

Examine

Apply

Devote to prayer

Day 02 Devotional

Ephesians 4:22–24 “To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Be still

Read

Examine

Apply

Devote to prayer

Day 03

Devotional

Acts 2:44–47 “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Be still

Read

Examine

Apply

Devote to prayer

Day 04 Devotional

Revelation 19:6–8 “Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”

Be still

Read

Examine

Apply

Devote to prayer

Day 05 Devotional

Revelation 21:2–3 “And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.’”

Be still

Read

Examine

Apply

Devote to prayer

**Watch the
teaching video
for session 05
here**



or visit clearcreekresources.org/8practices

Discussion Questions

1. Ryan uses the image of physical therapy — slow, uncomfortable, but purposeful — for how community sanctifies us. Where has a relationship functioned like “physical therapy” in your own growth?
2. Why can’t putting off pride or putting on patience (Ephesians 4:22–24) really happen in isolation? What kind of friction exposes those things?
3. The session argues even personal spiritual practices — Scripture reading, prayer, generosity — find their fuller expression in community. Which of these have you mostly practiced alone, and what might change if you practiced them with others?
4. Acts 2’s communal generosity is described as dismantling hyper-individualism. How does giving to others confront the instinct to be the center of your own story?
5. “We are not being formed in spite of the people around us. We are being formed through them.” Do you tend to view difficult people in your community as obstacles to growth or instruments of it?
6. Tiffany compares the whole story of Scripture to an engagement — a charged, meaningful waiting period before the wedding. How does thinking of your current season as “preparation” rather than “just maintenance” change how you view it?
7. Revelation 19 and 21 picture the Bride “made ready,” clothed in the righteous deeds of the saints. What does it mean that nothing done in love, justice, or mercy is wasted — it’s woven into eternity?
8. As this series ends, what is one concrete way you want to move from hearing about community to actually practicing it in your small group?

Exercise

Community with God and community with others are not two separate tracks — they're one gift, meant to be practiced together, not just alone.

- This week, take one spiritual practice you normally do in private — Scripture reading, prayer, or Sabbath — and do it with someone else instead.
 - ♦ **Scripture:** Read the same passage separately, then talk through it together: What did you each notice? Where did God speak to you differently?
 - ♦ **Prayer:** pray out loud together for a specific need, rather than only praying privately for it.
 - ♦ **Sabbath:** Invite others into the liturgical rhythm of stop, rest, delight, and worship. What was different about resting together? How did community deepen the gift of Sabbath?
- As you end this exercise, discuss with your group: What did you notice in participating in practices with others that you would have missed alone? How did someone else's perspective sharpen or deepen yours?