

"BAD TAKES"

Life Group discussion questions, week 6

KEY VERSES:

Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Ecclesiastes. 4:7-12: Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked himself, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless—a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

Genesis 2:18: The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

1 John 1:7,10 If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin...if we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and the truth has no place in us.

Prov 18:1: Loners who care only for themselves spit on the common good.

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will direct your paths.

Mt. 18:20: "For where there are two or more gathered in my name, there I am with them."

Psalms 133:1,3 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! ... For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalms 68:5-6a Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is your favorite "famous duo"? (Batman & Robin, Bert & Ernie, Hall & Oates, Lone Ranger & Tonto, etc.) and why?
 2. Talk about one cultural example where we are encouraged / pressured to "handle it myself."
 3. Share a time when you tried to "handle it myself" and things didn't end well.
 4. Can you think of a time when you were particularly glad that you had a friend you could count on, who loved you messes and all? Similarly, was there ever time in your life when you pulled away and isolated yourself when you probably should have sought connection with/to others?
 5. Why do you think the Bible puts such an emphasis on interdependence and sharing life together?
 6. Consider the following quote from Sunday: "Sometimes we think getting real is dangerous, that letting people see the "real us" is risky, and that hiding & isolation is safe. But God's truth is the opposite: intertwining ourselves with others and getting real with others is *actually* what's safe, no matter how uncomfortable it might feel... and by contrast, isolation, self-reliance and pretending is *actually* what's fatal, no matter how good it might feel in the moment."
- Thoughts?
7. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 above. What is hard about this for you?
 8. A question for reflection: how good are you at offering/giving help? How good are you at asking for / receiving help from others? What does the answer to those questions tell you?