

LOUD

YOUR SOUL IS SCREAMING ... INCLUDE ME

Remember me, GOD, when you enjoy your people; include me when you save them; I want to see your chosen succeed, celebrate with your celebrating nation, join the Hallelujahs of your pride and joy! Psalm 106:4-5 The Message

ICEBREAKER: Remember a time when you were really glad to have others around you. What was happening? What did you feel by being in community with others? How might that experience be different if you were all alone?

1. I was never intended to be alone

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone." Genesis 2:18a NLT

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

DISCUSSION: Think about some of your daily and weekly routines; the places you go, the things you do. What would your life be like if you did had no additional human contact?

DISCUSSION: Think back to a really difficult time in your life. What happened? Was someone there to be with you? Did you have others there to empathize with you or were you alone? Did you wish that you had someone there to experience that part of your life with you?

2. I was made with a desire to be chosen

But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 NASB

Even before he made the world...God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5 NLT

DISCUSSION: Have you ever been picked last for something? Have you ever NOT been invited to a party or an event that you had a desire to attend? Have you ever felt left-out or over-looked? How did that make you feel?

3. I was designed for God's family

...Love your spiritual family! 1 Peter 2:17b The Message

*God's family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15b
GWT*

You belong in God's household with every other Christian. Ephesians 2:19b LB

DISCUSSION: Have you ever resisted being a part of a family, either personal or spiritual? What happened that caused you to resist being in that family?

Church is where my ...

A. Friends love me for me.

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 15:12 NLT

DISCUSSION: How have you felt loved by your family at Sandals? What are some things that could happen that you think would make you feel more loved?

B. Instructions for living are explained.

[Jesus said] ...I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. John 10:10 The Message

DISCUSSION: Based on what you know of scripture, what do you think God desires out of your life as a Christian?

C. Talents for making a difference are used.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. Romans 12:6-7 NLT

DISCUSSION: What are some ways you believe you are using your God-given gifts? What are some ways you could give of yourself more for God's Kingdom?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 7-10 minutes and look at your life with your natural family. Ask the Lord, to what degree you have transferred your experience (good or bad) onto your church family. Then ask Him, how this is affecting your participation in the church body.

Discuss this with your small group.