

## March 10, 2024 – Community - ROCK

Anything worth having takes time...or something like that, right? Well, Jesus-following commUnity is the same way. We have to be willing to invest ourselves, trusting others with who we are and how we live. That can be scary...but it can also be life-giving. Join us this weekend as we tackle the reality that building commUnity takes time...but if we build it right it can be life-giving – even in the midst of the stormiest storms of life!



### Scripture:

**Various Proverbs: 16:16, 16:24, 16:28, 18:24, 27:9, 27:17 NLT**

How much better to get wisdom than gold, and good judgment than silver!

Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

### Matthew 7:24-29 The Message

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit— but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. <sup>26-27</sup> “But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.” <sup>28-29</sup> When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religion teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.

### Questions:

- Have you ever invested yourself in true Jesus-following community? If so, what’s it been like? If not, what keeps you from stepping in? (Try not using time as an excuse!)
- Authentic community is often something we say we want – but then we never truly engage in. What barriers do you find yourself putting up? Or what walls do you use to keep yourself “safe” from deep authentic community?
- What might happen if you trusted a few others with your whole self – good, not so good, doubts, questions, screw-ups, joys, etc? The only way to be part of true authentic community is if you are willing to step in...and bring your whole self. What might be the good that could happen for you? Dare to try?

### Reading for the Week:

**Monday:** Jeremiah 17:7-8

**Tuesday:** Galatians 6:2

**Wednesday:** Romans 12:5

**Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

**Friday:** 1 Peter 4:8-11