



September 16/17
I Love Our community

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Introduction

God is doing great things at Prairie Lakes Church, and you are a vital part of making great things happen here. This week in our series, *I Love My Church*, we examine community. Oftentimes, we find ourselves with the most stress and anxiety when we try to go it alone and fall out of our obedient surrender to Christ. Google defines community “as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.” In a world pulling us in so many different directions, it seems clear we need a community to keep our attitudes, interests and goals in line with those of Jesus.

Discussion

1. When have you experienced a season of self-sufficiency where your connection to Christ was strained? How did your community help you to reconnect?

2. **Read Hebrews 3:12-13.** What does this passage imply as a charge to a member of a Christian community? How does this make being in a community different from having community?

3. **Read Colossians 3:12-14.** What do these words look like in 2017? What do the actions of God’s chosen people look like in today’s world? In your Little Iowa?

Think About It

In the past few weeks, as a nation we’ve been taken aback by scenes of devastation. At the same time, we’ve been inspired by scenes of neighbors helping neighbors. Researchers say there is something significant in being part of a community. After villages in India were hit by a giant tsunami in 2004, the villagers who knew lots of people fared best. Money and power had less impact on their post-disaster success than their network of support. Similar findings were encountered after Hurricane Katrina. These findings have prompted emergency management officials to urge people to know their neighbors and help them as they prepare for hurricanes. All this prompts another question: why wait for times of disaster when the support of our Little Iowa could help us every day?

Do Something

1. Make being in a small group a priority. Mark groups are starting soon. Find your spot by signing up at your campus or online at prairielakeschurch.org.
2. Connect with your Little Iowa, and be Jesus with skin on. Engage with your community by getting to know them. This week challenge each member of your family to get to know someone new in their circle of influence and share what you have learned at a family dinner. Or even better, invite them to dinner!