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westvalleychurch.com

West Valley Church
January 15, 2012

Community Created by God

1. The Human-Shaped Void

- Genesis 1-2; Ephesians 4:3; Psalm 133:1-3

2. The Divine Community

- Genesis 1; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31;
Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:6-27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians
13:14; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-18

3. The Great Invitation

- John 17:20-23; Matthew 18:20; Ephesians 4:3

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Talking it over (use this for discussion around your community group):

- ◆ Who was your best friend growing up, and what made you best friends?
- ◆ Think of a time where you felt you really “belonged” with a group of friends. Describe the characteristics that made that group special.
- ◆ Why did God create mankind?
- ◆ Read Genesis 1:25, and then 2:18. All that God created was “good,” so what was it about man that God said was “not good”? How could God make something and then decide it was “not good”?
- ◆ Do you think God was talking about man needing a marriage relationship, or mankind in general needing relationship with one another, or both? Explain.
- ◆ “God created mankind to be in community.” Give reasons why this statement would be true. Is there psychological evidence for this? Is there examples from the Bible that prove this? Share some of those reasons.
- ◆ We believe that Jesus’ death makes available to mankind a restoration between man and God; that the relationship can be like it was before man sinned. A Christian is one for whom that has happened. If that’s the case, then should anything be different about Christians’ relationships to one another? How so?

Digging Deeper (if you still have time, or for further study later, go through these questions):

- ◆ What is the Trinity?
- ◆ If you have heard examples or analogies to describe the Trinity, share those.
- ◆ How would you explain the Trinity to someone?
- ◆ Read Matthew 3:16-17. How are all three persons of the Trinity shown here? Does this say anything about each person and what he does?
- ◆ Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why did Jesus tell us to baptize people in the name of all three persons of the Trinity? Some question the concept of the Trinity and whether or not it is correct. If the Trinity is not correct, what would Jesus have meant?
- ◆ In what ways might the Trinity be an example of “community”?
- ◆ **Re-read through your notes. Review the main points and read the Scripture references that are provided for you.**