



**“The New Community”**  
**Pastor Cathy Burkholder**  
**February 27 & 28, 2016**

We are in our fourth week of our series called *One Day at a Time*, a study on how to follow Jesus—in relationship, on mission, experiencing community, resisting temptation, enjoying benefits and counting the cost of journeying with Jesus...ONE DAY AT A TIME. The disciples left behind everything to follow Christ. They believed He was the Christ—but what did following him really mean? They didn’t have it all figured out, but they watched in awe, discovered, listened, and learned along the way.

When Jesus asked people to follow Him, he didn’t look at their job titles, GPA’s, or bank accounts first. He didn’t expect them to clean up, sober up, or wise up before they could be with him. He just invited them to follow. Following Christ isn’t about being religious or perfect. It’s simply about following one foot and “one day at a time”.

**Warm it Up**

What is one of the best “road trips” you’ve ever taken with someone before? Describe your experience.

**Read Mark 1:16-20**

**Talk it over**

1. Today studies show that Americans are more relationally isolated than ever before. What are some of the things that have contributed to this? What’s been your own experience?
2. The first thing Jesus did was to form a community and put together a small group of 12 disciples. How did this small community help Jesus to accomplish God’s mission? How does God use community today to accomplish His mission?
3. Why do you think Jesus calls us to be part of a community? How does community help us to know Jesus more fully? How does community help us in becoming more like Christ?
4. Cathy shared about some of the benefits of community; Jesus is uniquely present, knowing Jesus more fully, preventing ‘spiritual drift’ in our lives, a place

where we can love and be loved, a way for us to serve others. Which of these benefits have you experienced in your own life and how have they made a difference for the kingdom?

5. Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." If you already have an accountability partner in your life, share how this person has helped to "sharpen you" and vice versa? How valuable has this been in your own spiritual growth?
6. "You can only be loved to the extent that you are known" How does God use our willingness to be transparent with one another for our own spiritual transformation?
7. Community is never easy. Henri Nouwen said, "Community is the place where the person I least want to be there is always there." What are some of the challenges that you have experienced?
8. How have you dealt with people who Cathy called "EGR's" (Extra Grace Required)?

### **Work it out**

9. Think about your unique setting and identify a few opportunities that God has given you to minister to the people around you. Have you taken advantage of these opportunities?
10. We were not created to go through life alone. We need to live in community with others. How is the community around you feeding your life right now? How are you feeding them?
11. What would it mean for CPC to live as a compelling community—a group of people who demonstrate love, unity, and hope in such a way that the unbelieving world is compelled to find out what is going on?
12. How might we be better as a church at "opening the circle" (Instead of staying in "holy huddles") and inviting others in?
13. What are some ways that you could help introduce/connect people to Jesus and "Refuse to let one person go unnoticed?"

### **Prayer**

As you think back on this series, what is something that you would like prayer for? Share together as a group and pray for one another.