

DAY 1

Your Journey Starts Here

Community: Day 02

"Power in Numbers" by Pastor Mark Eiken

Matthew 18:20, "For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"

My wife woke me up about 5 a.m. It was a Saturday morning, so I was not happy about being up so early, but she was in tears. She said something was wrong. We were early in our pregnancy and she had woken up with severe cramps. She thought there might be something wrong with the baby. We headed off to the hospital. In a cold, sterile, mint green room the doctor confirmed our fears. The beating heart of our unborn child had gone still.

We left the hospital in a silence that was broken only by small talk and the occasional exhale of a heartfelt sigh. I didn't know how to help my wife in this moment. It was the first real heartbreak or difficult moment in our young marriage. I was a bit lost, grieving myself, but really hurting for my wife.

When we returned home, waiting for us were two couples from our small group. They had brought over some food, more importantly they brought the unique presence of God into a very dark day. The time these couples spent with us was like gold. They loved on us, they cried with us, and they spoke hope into our lives. Through this community, God met our deepest need.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:20, **"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"** Now we know that God is everywhere. He is always and ever present. But in this passage Jesus says, I am uniquely present where people are gathered. I am uniquely present in community. Both the Bible and my experience demonstrate that this is true.

We are wired to share life with others. We are created to minister to others and receive ministry from them. That's the beauty of community.

Back to the story... Three years later, Tina and I welcomed the birth of our daughter Kayla. And although we lived halfway across the country, those same two couples flew out to share in the celebration.

Over the years, my wife and I have been involved in many small groups. We've had the chance to speak hope into the lives of others who have gone through similar experiences. In community you give life and you receive life and in the midst of it all, Jesus is uniquely present.

So today, will you engage in community? Make a phone call? Write a note? Visit a friend? Gather with two or three people? Who can you encourage? Who will you share life with? By doing this, you are inviting Jesus to be uniquely present in your life and the life of others.