

Message Big Idea

All of us will experience times in our life when we need the support and accountability of other people. Connecting in a small group is like a retirement account: if you wait, it won't be there when you need it.

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Points to Keep In Mind

1. This week's topic is pretty straightforward concerning the Scripture and the questions surrounding it. Use this week's guide to think about how your group can continue to grow as a close-knit community and how you can help one another continue to grow as people.
2. You might also find this short commentary on the passages helpful: These verses are in support of the claim in Ecclesiastes 4:7–8 and consist of a series of examples and a traditional saying. The first case deals with labor: two will achieve for each other more than one worker can attain. The point is less the actual wages that are granted for the labor than the circumstances of the toil—two people can complement each other by working together. Ecclesiastes 4:10 illustrates the idea of mutual support: if one fails, the other can help. The next case does not necessarily refer to a married couple but is a practical instance of how two people can combine for the purpose of warmth (1 Kgs 1:1–2; Luke 17:34). Presumably, their outer garments provide two “blankets” that keep them both warm. The final example (v 12) envisions a physical attack, as from a robber; two are better than one. The examples are topped off by what has the ring of a proverb concerning the three-ply cord. The number three has no particular significance as opposed to two; the point is plurality.
From Roland Murphy, Ecclesiastes, vol. 23A, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1992), 42.
3. One thing good community helps us to do is become more self-aware. You might consider reading a recent blog post from pastor Carey Nieuwhof, where he talks about emotional IQ and how to improve it. It's written from the perspective of leadership, but it would be helpful to anyone, whether in leadership or not. Visit careynieuwhof.com/blog and search for “5 Emotional Intelligence Hacks”. Read the post called “5 Emotional Intelligence Hacks that can Immediately Improve Your Leadership.”

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. See Community Cares for some ways your group can serve others: communitychristian.org/cares