



Small Groups at CCC. 'We are Family'

Session 1
Family as our Heartbeat
(Loving & being loved)

Genesis 2:15-25

The funeral of an unidentified baby boy took place in Edinburgh on Friday, nearly two years after he was found abandoned on a path, wrapped in a Primark blanket. He had no name and no known family, but more than 200 people came to say goodbye. They brought teddy bears, balloons and single white roses for the child, who was found just a few hundred metres from the cemetery at Seafield where he was laid to rest in a white coffin that was light enough to be carried in the arms of one man. Police believe the boy was about six weeks old when his body was found on a nearby path, swaddled in a blanket, in July 2013. His mother remains untraced. As the coffin was laid within its small rectangular grave, the minister from nearby Tranent parish church, Erica Wishart, told mourners: "Everyone gathered here today is grieving. We represent everyone in this community and beyond who feels deep sadness that this tiny baby is never going to have his chance to grow up and live his life. "[We] are here to mourn a life that could have been." (The Guardian: 1st May 2015)

Britain is the loneliness capital of Europe with its inhabitants less likely overall to know their neighbours or have strong friendships than people anywhere else in the EU, an official study suggests. "How many friends on Facebook would we actually recognise if we passed them in the street?" (The Telegraph: 4th April 2016)

- Genesis 2:15-25
- What can we learn about loneliness and the need for community from this passage?

Most of us gravitate towards friendships, dating, marriage, even small groups, because we have (somewhere deep inside us) a deep yearning to know and to be known by others.

- So what keeps us from opening our hearts to others?

Every human being requires 3 things to develop and thrive.

1. A sense of safety.
2. A sense of significance.
3. A sense of worth. * But not self-worth, rather God-worth.

- So what is the difference between self worth and God-worth?

A major component in Community is the ability to love and be loved. God hungers for us to be loved and to give love to others. This is his life plan for every one of us.

- Who in your life has poured out consistent deep levels of love to you, and how was it shown?

Community is also about service. Serving and being served.

- Read John 13:1-17
- Why do you think Jesus did this?
- Have you ever been served by others and how did that act of service build and strengthen community between you.

But we also need a sense of community with God. * Look at David (Psalms 38 & 51)

Ask your group members, "If we never saw each other again, how would your life be the poorer for it?"

Celebrate one another!