



## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Sin Destroys Community - Tim Knipp

January 21st, 2024

#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- When was a time in your life when you felt particularly connected to others and community? What about that time stands out to you?
- Share about a time in your life when you felt isolated or disconnected from community. What about that time stands out to you?
- This week, Tim talked about isolation and loneliness at the societal and cultural level. To dig into this further, consider listening to all or part of this episode of the Regent College Podcast (An interview with Eric Jacobsen, author of *Three Pieces of Glass*) together or as a small group: <https://podcast.regent-college.edu/1627978/9412921>. Some good sections could include:
  - 3:30-13:00 - levels of and the value of belonging
  - 20:37-27:50 - the role the automobile, tv, and car have played in shaping cultural isolation and loneliness
  - 35:37-43:35 - ways to consider steps forward beyond the individual level

#### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- Read Genesis 2:25-3:12 (or consider starting at 2:18, for more context of God's desire for humans to live in relationship)
- Prior to the entry of sin into creation, what do we see about human's relationship with each other? About their relationship with God?
- After the entry of sin into creation, how do Adam and Eve act towards one another? How do they act towards God?



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- How do these actions show change in their relationships and belonging?
- How do we see the seeds of isolation and loneliness in the world today in this passage?

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- What changes in the western world over the past decades have deepened the push towards isolation?
  - Changes in cars, neighborhoods, and transportation?
  - Our culture's valuing of individualism?
  - Developments in technology?
- How have you seen the power of sin working in our world to create lonely, isolated people?
  - In your own life or experience?
  - In the lives of others or those around you?
- In your experience, what makes the individualism and isolation of our culture attractive?
  - What makes it challenging to resist these forces?
- When have you seen someone purposefully living into creating community or connection in the midst of our society? What stands out about their example?

#### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*



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- Are there areas in your life God may be calling you to repent? Are there places where God is calling your values and priorities to shift, and turn back towards him?
- Are there actions God may be calling you to in the week ahead, to build connection? In your work? School? Neighborhood? Family?
- Are there places of pain in your life or those in your life because we live in a lonely and isolated time? Lift those to the Lord in prayer and lament (David models this in Psalm 25: 16-17)

Time of Prayer