

This past week Japan was hit with an earthquake and tsunami that left behind a path of destruction that impacted thousands of people. Officials continue to count the number of dead and missing, while assessing the financial impact as well. Over a million people have gone without electricity or water. The photos are shocking and leave a sick feeling in your stomach. Thankfully, we also get to see stories of countries that have mobilized to bring in food and water and to help with the clean up. Humanitarian groups have organized relief efforts and will bring physical and emotional support to people who have lost everything. God has heard every prayer that has been uplifted.

It's easy to compare this tragic event to how we need support when we're in a difficult situation. Our community can provide meals, babysitting, or notes of encouragement. They can help with financial burdens, and they can pray for us.

But there's something greater going on. God wants to bring us into community with others so He can use us to bless others, and so we can focus on Him. It's not just about what we get out of the group. He has this awesome ability to turn something tragic in our life into a blessing we can give someone else. Think of it this way: He turns our mess into His message. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 1 – "All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times and before you know it, He brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah but no more so than the good times of His healing comfort – we get a full measure of that, too."

God has wired us to need community, and most of us are involved with several "small groups" already. Perhaps they are at work or at our child's school, but we interact with people almost daily. It's in these groups that He plans on using us to share His love with others. Perhaps we sometimes look at others as an inconvenience, but they are the people God has placed in our path that give us an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It is our chance to grow as we love God and look for ways to serve Him by serving others. I hope you will consider joining a community at 1Mosaic and allowing God to challenge you on your journey to be more like Jesus.

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) When we are in community with others, we all should have the same calling – love God first and others second. How do I live this out within my community?

Am I afraid of being in a community group? If so, why?

Within our community we are to be called to the same purpose (see Mark 3). What does this look like in my community group?

How can I encourage others in my group? (see Hebrews 10)

Additional Verses: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Mark 3:13-19, Galatians 3:28, Hebrews 10:23-25

This week's memory verse: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25*

REMINDERS: March is "Community" month @ 1MOSAIC

March 20 – 3rd:Culture Night - We will gather & serve in our 'community' this month. Details...

What? Habitat 4 Humanity Partnership

Who? Tabitha...single mom of 2 (offering will be taken to go to Tabitha & kids – find Treasure Box)

Where? 916 Lincoln Ave. A-town

When? Sat. (19th) 9-12 or 12-3...SIGN UP!

Sun. (20th) 6-8 (MosaicKIDS will be running @ SHU from 5:45-7:45...drop them off, come help, and be back to get them by 7:45 please!)

Jobs? Painting (bring whatever you can) / Clean Up (dress appropriately...dirty & possibly outside)

March 27 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 p.m. - *Community...ahh, that's what it looks like!* Part II – Dan continues to walk us through the community life of the very first 'Christians'...why was it so different? We will also celebrate communion together this week & **M-group meeting right after service!**