

Two Are Better Than One

August 16, 2026

Main Passage: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Theological Theme

Community is vital for the Christian life (we really are better together).

Introduction

- ❓ How important is community to your daily life? How do you practice being in community regularly?
- ❓ What makes it easier for us to live in isolation? What are some other negative effects you've experienced of isolation?

1. Two Are Better Than One (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

It is not good for us to be alone. We were literally created to live in community (Genesis 2:18). Sometimes we must learn this lesson the hard way, but we aren't alone. Scripture provides several cautionary tales here.

- ❓ What do you think it means for a pair to have "a good reward for their efforts" (v. 9)?
- ❓ What might be the connection between community and living the most fulfilling life (the broader theme of Ecclesiastes)?
- ❓ When was a time you moved toward isolation? How did this impact you?

2. Benefits of Community (Ecclesiastes 4:10-11)

In community, if you fall, a friend can lift you up. Sometimes, we need this kind of help physically, but more often we need this help emotionally and spiritually. A friend helps carry the burdens that life throws our way. A friend reminds us that we aren't alone, offering advice and support.

- ❓ What benefits of community did Solomon list in these verses? How does this serve as an encouragement?

❓ What drawbacks to isolation did Solomon call out? How does this serve as a warning?

❓ How have you experienced the benefits of life together with God's people?

3. Three Strands (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Solomon began today's passage by writing about how two are better than one and ended by saying three are even better. There is strength in numbers. There are many places we could look to see the benefits of a community converging (Peter's friends going fishing with him in John 21 after Peter denied Jesus three times, the believers gathering to pray for Peter's release from jail in Act 12, etc.).

❓ What point did Solomon make in this verse?

❓ How does this inform our idea of Christian community?

❓ Do you have this kind of community? Who are those who will carry you to Jesus and that you can do the same for?

Conclusion

Our group has a chance to be a community that will encourage, lift up, and show up. But it requires all of us leaning in toward the community God desires us to be.

❓ How has your community shown up for you in your life? What happened? How did it impact you?

❓ How are we taking care of those in our community, and what could we do to improve?

❓ How does living as a godly community make us more attractive to those who don't yet know Jesus?