



INTRODUCTION

This week, Pastor John continues our *Your Next Step* series. In the first week, Pastor John taught us attending church regularly helps us connect with God and others in the church. Last week, Pastor Jesse provided the second step of finding a place in the church where we can serve purposely so we will bless and be blessed by God and others. This week, Pastor John focuses on the third step of connecting relationally.

DISCUSSION

1. Discuss how loving and obeying Jesus affects your relationship with family, believers and non-believers.
2. How do you define loneliness? What do most people think is the natural solution to loneliness? **Read Psalm 23:1-6 and 68:4-6.** What is the biblical solution to overcoming loneliness? What are some practical steps you can take to conquer it?
3. What stands in your way of having closer relationships? As a group, pray over the issues your group is currently experiencing with relationships.
4. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Hebrews 10:25.** From these verses and your own experiences, name the advantages of having close relationships. Take this opportunity to express gratitude for fellow group members: how they bless you, set an example, hold you accountable, encourage you, etc.

DO SOMETHING

1. If your next step is joining a small group, you can sign up online at prairelakeschurch.org/groups.
2. The best way to understand connecting relationally is to study Jesus. Read the first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) with your small group, with special attention to how Jesus connected with those around Him.
3. If you are currently in a small group, prayerfully consider inviting people into your group who seem to be lacking Christian community. Invite them to attend an activity or event you will be attending sometime in the next month.

RESOURCES

1. *Makers Discipleship* is a five-part series by Patrick Annotti on [RightNow Media](http://RightNowMedia.com) designed for those who want to fulfill God's plan for their lives of being and making disciples of Jesus.
2. *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren calls attention to connecting relationally with other Christians in a chapter called "You Were Formed for God's Family."
3. Author Max Lucado writes about *Jesus, the God Who Knows Your Name*, who is our "friend, teacher, miracle worker, Lamb of God, returning king, and the God who knows and loves you."