

# COMMUNITY



## 1. Community in the Beginning

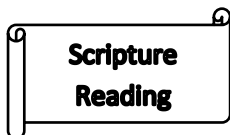
We all live in communities! For most of us, our community begins with our family. This was God's design and plan for us from the beginning. Let's start by sharing about our own family.



Share a little about your family. Do you have brothers and sisters? Where do you fit in the family? Are you the eldest or youngest or in the middle?

Who was it that said, "It is not good for man to live alone"? Was it Adam or was it God? It was God! God himself is three persons in one – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God knew it was not good for man to live on his own, and that he needed others with whom he could have relationship, just as God has relationships within the trinity. So God created the Eve and gave her to Adam, and she was able to give birth to their children. This was the first community on earth.

Satan hates community and people living together in unity, and he always seeks to destroy it.



Genesis 4:3-12

- ❶ Why was Cain angry and upset? See v4-5
- ❷ Have you ever been in a situation, or are you in one now, where someone else is accepted and you are rejected? How does that make you feel?
- ❸ God spoke to Cain to give him the opportunity to come back to him. What do you think God meant when he said, "Sin is crouching at the door"? Discuss.
- ❹ What was the 'right' thing Cain should have done do you think?
- ❺ We have all had times when we feel hurt, angry or jealous. Sin is crouching at our door too! What have you learnt from this story that will help you respond in the right way when you feel like that? Share.



There may be some in the group who are facing hurtful situations right now. Several in the group could pray for them, and then pray for one another.

God created us to live in community. It is only possible to experience that when we love God and love one another. Satan will try to destroy that, so we need to be on guard. Don't allow him to steal from you all that God intends for you and your relationships in your family. God's desire is that our home is a place where we feel loved and accepted, a place where we are secure and happy. It may not be like that at present, but pray for your family, and choose to love and forgive those who have hurt you. You can make a difference!