



## #3 Small and Organic

### Consider...

Last time we looked at the importance of community and saw that it is God's big vision for humanity! However we also noticed that meaningful community is becoming harder and harder to maintain in our western context.

Despite all this, we believe there is a way that we can work at a deep, meaningful community life, despite our cultural limitations. We just need to keep things small and organic! When you join a Gospel Community you are committing to share your normal, everyday life with a smaller group of Christians from Summerleas.<sup>1</sup> This can sometimes get messy, and it's not always easy, but in this session we'll see that it's totally worth it!

### Read...

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 describe the relationship Paul had with the Thessalonians Christians.

2. Read the following passages. How do they shape our vision for what Christian relationships should look like.

Romans 12:10

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:2

Colossians 3:16

James 5:16

1 Peter 4:9

3. Read Titus 2:7-8, and 1 Timothy 4:12. What must Titus and Timothy do to help others grow in the faith?

### Think...

How would you summarise the kinds of relationships the Bible calls us to have with other Christians?

How many people do you think you could meaningfully sustain these kinds of relationships with?

To what extent could you build these kinds of relationships if *all* you ever have are formal meetings?

Try and think of some ways that you could share your life with others (1 Thessalonians 2:8) and set other believers and example in everything (Titus 2:7-8)

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<sup>1</sup> **Note:** This doesn't mean you can't spend time and build relationships with people outside of your Gospel Community. Indeed such relationships can serve to encourage and inspire us to love and serve our Gospel Community members all the more!