November 17, 2024
*The Missing Piece*
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Read **Genesis 2:18-25** (NIV):

*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.*

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

*23 The man said,*
*"This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh;*
*she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."*

*24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

1. Why did God have Adam name all the animals?

2. Why did God create humans in such a way that it's not good for us to be alone (even before the fall)? How does this reflect what God is like?

3. What are some of the positive effects that living in true community can have on a person?

4. Describe the African concept of *ubuntu*. Tell about a situation where you've seen the power of *ubuntu* in action.

5. The Jubilee Institute lists five things that help relationships become deeper and more fulfilling. Describe what each one is and why it deepens the relationship:
   1) Directness
   2) Continuity
   3) Multiplicity
   4) Parity
   5) Shared Purpose

6. Read **Ephesians 2:13-16**: *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

   What is Paul communicating here?

7. How is Ephesians 2:13-16 relevant for us today? How might you live into this more fully?

8. Share about a time in your life when you experienced the truth that Chris McCandless of the film *Into the Wild* discovered: "Happiness. Only real, when shared." – either because you weren't living this way or because you were.

9. What did you sense God saying to you through this passage and this message?