


**“THE WAY OF INTERDEPENDENCE”**
**SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER**
**DATE: JAN 29, 2023**
**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.*

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**
**GENESIS 1 (SPECIFICALLY 1:1-2 AND 1:26-31), GENESIS 2:15-25; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21; PHILIPPIANS 2:5**

Continuing our series on ancient pathways that lead us to God, this week, Pastor Alex focuses on interdependence and why it is so important. God created humanity to work together to reflect his character and to do His work in the world. However, the entrance of sin and brokenness in the world has caused all kinds of relational issues. This week we examine why God wants us to be interdependent, what healthy interdependence really looks like, and how to cultivate it in our relationships.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What have been the most influential relationships in your life? What is one major way they have impacted you?
2. If you had been naming the animals instead of Adam, what's one animal name that you would have changed and why?
3. Has anyone had a chance to put into practice what we talked about last time we met? Has it had an impact on your life in any way?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Read Genesis 1 (and particularly focus on verses 1-2 and 26-31). What do these verses tell you about God's intent for humanity and for the world?
2. What does Genesis 2:15-25 reveal about how God created humanity and how we best function as people?
3. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, what work has Jesus done for us? What charge has God give to us as His followers?
4. How does Philippians 2:5 say that we are to function in the world?
5. What do you learn from these passages about the way of interdependence and how we are called to live in relationship with one another?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What are some unhealthy ways that people in our world (and even in our churches and families) engage in relationships? How does this compare to the interdependence described in this message and the passages Pastor Alex read?
2. Pastor Alex talked about two ways that God's intention for relationships can be twisted: through isolation and through idolatry. How have you seen these two things play out in our world? What have been the results?
3. What examples have you seen of both healthy and unhealthy relationships in the church/between Christians? What factors make these relationships either healthy or not?
4. What do you think healthy interdependence looks like in today's world? How could it be cultivated in modern relationships?

**CONTINUED:**

5. Have you witnessed healthy examples of interdependence anywhere? What are some of the characteristics of these healthy relationships?

***Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What are some unhealthy ways that you have engaged in relationships? How does this message/these passages challenge or encourage you?
2. How have you experienced isolation and idolatry in your own life? What have been the results?
3. How would you describe your relationships within the church and with other Christians? Have they generally been healthy or unhealthy? Why?
4. What might healthy interdependence look like in your own life and relationships? What do you think is the biggest barrier to interdependence for you?
5. What's one thing you could do in this season of your life to foster greater interdependence in your relationships?

***LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. If there are unhealthy patterns that you have had in your relationships, what's one thing you can do this week to move towards greater relational health?
2. What's one thing you can do this week to foster more interdependence in your currently relationships?