

# ANCHORS 4<sup>1</sup>

## *Real Community: Togetherness*

Last week we finished our study of real devotional life. This week we are beginning the anchor of real community. In real community, we live out the life of Christ as one nourished by prayer and the Word. We are called to live in intentional relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we stop short of living in real community, our personal devotional time won't bear fruit. Because God is Trinity, and we are made in His

image, we most reflect Him when we are doing life with other believers. There is power in real community. When we stop relying on ourselves and allow others to journey with us, we experience the benefits of real community. Tonight we are going to look at a story from the life of Moses. Moses was a strong man of God who was selected by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. In this passage, Israel has already crossed the Red Sea and is journeying through the desert in search of the Promised Land. During their journey, they are attacked by an enemy tribe called the Amalekites. In the battle that ensues, we get a fantastic picture of the power of real community. Even as a God-chosen leader, Moses could not do everything on his own! Moses needed the help of Joshua, the army of Israel, and specifically Aaron and Hur to ensure victory during the battle with the Amalekites.

### *Exodus 17:8-16, NIV*

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." 10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

### *Pre-Article Questions:*

1. If you were able to attend our large group worship service this week/past week, how did God speak to you through the worship or the message?
2. Describe a striking illustration of teamwork and community that is found in nature and why it sticks out to you?

*Study Questions:*

1. Who did Moses take with him up the hill and what determined the outcome of the battle?
2. In what ways does this passage speak to you about the power of community?
3. Describe a time when you fought a spiritual battle with another brother or sister in Christ? How did it make a difference in the outcome of the battle?
4. In order for Moses to allow Aaron and Hur to help him, his attitude had to be one of humility.
5. How is God asking you to walk in greater humility and vulnerability within our community this semester?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-23, how is this passage speaking to you about community tonight? How does envy, comparison, and jealousy break down a community? What are some practical or spiritual steps you have taken to fight with others brothers and sisters in Christ against envy and comparison?
7. In what ways does this passage encourage you in your role as a member of this Life Group?
8. Read Hebrews 10:24-25, according to this verse how does real community look practically?

*Prayer Partner Assignment:*

Meet with your prayer partner this week and talk about some of your past experiences in communities, your challenges with communities, and what you feel God is calling you to in this community of Chi Alpha. Pray together about attending one of the next retreats, conferences, mission trips opportunities, or simply weekend hang outs to help deepen your experience of and in community.

*Closing*

Spend some time in prayer, praying over your Life Group that God would bond you and that the enemy's attacks of envy, comparison, jealousy, and fear would be broken in Jesus Name. Talk about how the Life Group can take some practical steps together to hold each other's arms up.