

3 BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY

1. SHARPENING IN MY STRUGGLES

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, “What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?” Moses answered him, “Because the people come to me to seek God’s will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God’s decrees and instructions.” Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people’s representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.” Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

Exodus 18:13-24 (NIV)

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

2. A TRIBE IN MY TROUBLES

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV)

They also carried off Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Genesis 14:12-16 (NIV)

3. PROVISION IN MY PAIN

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself, so he asked David to promise once more that he would be a loyal friend. After this Jonathan said: Tomorrow is the New Moon Festival, and people will wonder where you are, because your place at the table will be empty. By the day after tomorrow, everyone will think you’ve been gone a long time. Then go to the place where you hid before and stay beside Going-Away Rock. I’ll shoot three arrows at a target off to the side of the rock, and send my servant to find the arrows. You’ll know if it’s safe to come out by what I tell him. If it is safe, I swear by the living LORD that I’ll say, “The arrows are on this side of you! Pick them up!” But if it isn’t safe, I’ll say to the boy, “The arrows are farther away!” This will mean that the LORD wants you to leave, and you must go. But he will always watch us to make sure that we keep the promise we made to each other.

1 Samuel 20:17-23 (CEV)