

**Week 3: Alone in the Crowd**

**INTRODUCTION**

This week pastor Phil talked about how God has hard-wired us for connection with other people, for community and deep relationship. He said feelings of loneliness are a warning signal to alert us that our connection/relationship tank (reservoir) is close to empty and it’s time to reach out and seek connection with others and with God. We looked at 2 Bible characters, David and Zacchaeus, who were surrounded by other people but who were disconnected from their community and felt alienated from God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. David was disconnected from Israel because of King Saul’s irrational jealousy and hatred. Share about a time when someone else’s attitude or actions negatively affected/alienated you. How did you feel? What did you pray during that time? How did it turn out?
2. Psalm 142 is David’s prayer to God when he feels disconnected. What words does David use to describe his feelings? How does he reaffirm his trust in God?
3. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) was hated by his people because he was a tax collector. What was he willing to do to get to see Jesus? Why do you think he wanted to connect with Jesus? How did his encounter with Jesus change his life?
4. Describe how your relationship with God has affected your relationship with other people. What step/action do you need to take to improve your connection with God? What step/action should you take to strengthen your connection with other people?

**STEPPING FORWARD**

Reach out to someone with whom you’ve lost connection. Make a contact. Pray about how God might bless you or them by reconnecting with them.

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.*  **Revelation 3:20**