



COMMUNAL

The Ologies Lesson 9



The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

SESSION 9 - COMMUNAL

MAIN POINT:

MESSAGE NOTES:¹

Listen to or view message #8 in *The Ologies*, “Communal,” at pscconline.com. You can also find it by searching for Pleasant Street Church of Christ on your favorite podcasting service or on the Faithlife app on Apple TV or Roku.

Thought Questions:

1. Why can't we live our lives in isolation from other people?
2. How can community be dangerous to our spiritual wellbeing?
3. What has God done through history to combat the dangers of communal evil?
4. How is Christ the perfect foil to communal evil?

Next Steps:

1. What loyalties do you have that do not arise from your essential connection to Christ?
2. What does repentance from those attachments look like for you?

Obedience Challenge: Come Together or Fall Apart

Unhealthy attachments often present themselves through affinity. We tend to spend time with people who are like us or with whom we are comfortable. This is the way of the world that often gets brought uncritically into the church. Jesus said that citizens in his kingdom wouldn't be like this, but that they would include people in their relationship who were different from them. Plan a dinner and invite other believers with whom you don't normally associate.

¹ You will share your notes during the Collaboration time of your Life Team meeting.

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DAILY DEVOTION GUIDE:

Read the following Scriptures about humankind as created beings, throughout this week. Use the [SOAP journaling method](#) to help you go deeper into the text. (See Handout)

- Monday – Psalm 26
- Tuesday – Psalm 35
- Wednesday – Psalm 50
- Thursday – Psalm 73
- Friday – John 15
- Saturday – James 2

During your Life Team meeting, you'll be given the opportunity to share some of your Application entries. Consider bookmarking any that you'll want to share by way of confession or to encourage others.

Or copy it here for easy reference:

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INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING GUIDE:

Primer Exercise:

For Children

Watch this old candid camera episode about conformity. [y2mate.com prudential everybody's doing it BgRoiTWkBHU 1080p - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2mate.com_prudential_everybodys_doing_it_BgRoiTWkBHU) Before you watch it, explain that everyone in the elevator facing the wall is in on the trick.

- Discuss:
 - What was funny about the video?
 - Why do you think the person who wasn't in on the trick turned?
 - What do you think you would have done?
 - Is it good or bad that people do what the group is doing?

Everyone Else

Watch these two explainer videos on: [The Asch Line Study - Conformity Experiment - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=The_Asch_Line_Study_-_Conformity_Experiment_-_YouTube) and [How A Genius Became A Killer | Unabomber: In His Own Words - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=How_A_Genius_Became_A_Killer_|_Unabomber:_In_His_Own_Words_-_YouTube)

- Why is it dangerous to be in community?
- Why is it dangerous to be in isolation?

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The three sessions below are designed for home devotional use. Each session should be done in a separate sitting.

Session One: “Strength in Numbers”

- Read Genesis 11:1-11
 - What were the people at Babel planning to do?
 - Why did they want to do this?
 - What about their plans bothered God?
- Application and Prayer
 - How do people today count on their group instead of trusting in God?
 - What are some things you can think of that most people think are right, but God says are wrong?
 - How would God have us pray for people we know who are being tricked by the world?

Session Two: “A Cord of Three Strands”

- Read Ecclesiastes 4:7-12
 - Do you think the man described in vs. 7-8 is more task-oriented or relationship-oriented?
 - How is it better to do things with a partner than by ourselves?
 - Why do you think the writer speaks of a cord of three after talking about a team of two?
- Application and Prayer
 - How do relationships get in the way of our individual goals?
 - Are they worth it?
 - How can we maintain healthy relationships?

Session Three: “Two Masters”

- Read Galatians 1:10-20:
 - Why does Paul say that if he were still trying to please people he wouldn't be a servant of Christ?
 - What's wrong with people engaging in religious actions to please other people?
 - Why do you think Paul remained stand-offish towards the apostles in Jerusalem after his conversion?
- Application and Prayer
 - What aspects of your devotion to God are motivated by pleasing other people?
 - What do you need to do just for God?

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LIFE TEAM GATHERING GUIDE:

Sing

A Common Love

598

E♭/B♭

Whoever loves his brother lives in the light. - 1 Jn. 2:9-10

1.- 4. A com - mon love for each oth - er, a com - mon gift to the
2. When I look up to the heav - ens And I see the rain - bow's
3. When I look back to the gar - den And I see the Sav - ior

Sav - ior, a com - mon bond hold - ing us to the Lord;
beau - ty And the stars shin - ing bright - ly in the sky;
pray - ing, For a bond that would make His peo - ple strong;

A com - mon strength when we're wea - ry, a com - mon hope for to -
I see a joy nev - er end - ing And a love ev - er -
I know that God heard His pray - ing And he ans - wered at

mor - row, a com - mon joy in the truth of God's Word.
last - ing We can live ev - 'ry - day in God's true light.
Cal - v'ry, Je - sus died so that we could sing this song.

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is E-flat/B-flat and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and bass lines.

WORDS & MUSIC: Charles F. Brown, St. 2, 3 unknown, Arr. Gary Mabry, 1974
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Go to <https://psconline.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/A-Common-Love.mp3> for the tune to this song.

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Jesus, Name Above All Names 38

Words & Music by
Naida Hearn

Luke 1:31

Arr. by Darrell Bledsoe

Je - sus, name a - bove all names: Beau - ti - ful

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em - man - u - al, God is

with us, Bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word. *D.C.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 12/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piece ends with a double bar line and the marking 'D.C.' (Da Capo).

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Go to <https://psconline.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Jesus-Name-Above-All-Names.mp3>

for the tune to this song.

Scripture Discussion

- Read John 15:1-18
 - What does the vine metaphor say about our relationship to each other?

Pray

- Have someone read John 17:20-26 aloud.
- Open a time of prayer for the unity of your group and of the people of God around the world.
- Pray for any needs within the group and intercede for others.
- Close when you feel led.

Collaborate

Each participant should have listened to Message #9 in *The Ologies*, “Communal” in person or online and taken notes.

- Have everyone share their answers to the **Thought Questions** in their *Message Notes*.
- If anyone has already done the **Obedience Challenge**, have them report on how it went and what they learned.
- Encourage (but don’t require) participants to share their **Next Steps** or any **Application** entries from their SOAP journals.
- Close by praying for each other’s **Next Steps** and **Application** entries.