

2021

New Beginnings and Opportunities

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'
Isaiah 43:19



Burslem  Church

Isolation - Further Reading and Reflections

Listen/watch the message 'Isolation' at www.burslem.org.uk/newbeginnings

- 1. You are not designed to do life alone**
Genesis 2:16
- 2. Don't confuse Facebook friends or Instagram followers with relationships**
For Jesus' friendships see Matthew Luke 10:28-42, John 3:22, John 12:1-3
- 3. Be intentional about building relationships**
Matthew 4:18-22
- 4. Work on your people skills**
Galatians 5:22-23
- 5. When things get tough, run to people not away from people**
Ruth 1

Questions to think about:

1. When do you feel most isolated and lonely? When you feel this way, what people or groups can you connect with to help improve this?
2. When things are tough, do you run to or away from people? Who can you start to intentionally develop a relationship with, so that in tough times you are not isolated? (If you don't know, pray God will show you.)
3. What people skills do you need the Holy Spirit's help in developing?

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Ending Isolation as a church

We want our church to be a place where isolation is a possible choice and not a default.

Here are some things that we can do to reduce isolation as a church

1. **Engage with others outside your friendship group**
2. **Build relationships that extend beyond the church meeting**
3. **Connect with a church group beyond Sunday**

We will be soon launching a church private Facebook Group: 'Burslem Elim Online'. Keep checking Instagram and Facebook for when they go live. This will be a chance to connect with and encourage each other.

If you would like to join our church WhatsApp group, follow the link, on your phone - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JiqhehXtXlaBIAHctanbp4> or send Jim a message asking to join.

Further Reading:

Philip Yancey, One Another - <https://philipyancey.com/welcome-complication>