

God Friended Me – August 12, 2018

MESSAGE NOTES

“Why are Americans so lonely? Massive study finds nearly half of US feels alone, young adults most of all” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, May 1, 2018)

According to the study referred to in this article:

- 54% of Americans always or sometimes feel that no one knows them well.
- 56% of Americans always or sometimes feel like the people around them “are not necessarily with them.”
- The younger generation is lonelier than older generations.

Why are Americans so lonely? How would you answer that question?

Our struggle with loneliness points to the fact that we are wired for relationships. We are created to connect.

We are created to connect with each other.

We are created to connect with God.

- According to a recent Pew poll, “the single most important reason people go to church is to become closer to God, and no other reason comes close.”
- Do you sense God’s presence in our worship service – always, often, sometimes, rarely?

Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses... The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. (Exodus 33:7, 9, 11)

Camping is so vital because camping helps us connect with God:

- Through God’s people
- Through God’s creation
- Through God’s word

The Kingdom Is Near

- How does being in God’s creation help you connect with God?
- How does God speak to you? How do you hear God’s word?
- Do you have a “tent” in which you meet with God?
- Given how many Americans are lonely, how can we as a church help people connect with God and others?