

“It’s Not Good to Be Alone”: Sharing Life in a Christian Community

Sharing one’s life with others is a wise idea not only for economic reasons but also for spiritual reasons. People who live in community mostly say that sharing their life with others is the best way to see their faith growing. God himself lives as trinity in community, and so should we, as God said in Genesis 2:18. This workshop for singles, couples, and families will explore how to build Christian community that goes beyond Sunday’s service and Wednesday’s bible study and discover what great benefits come from a life lived intentionally with others.

Tina Tschage has worked as a pastoral assistant in a church planting project in Frankfurt, Germany and as an editorial journalist and presenter at several German television stations. She is now a freelancer, speaking at various ceremonies, counselling people, holding workshops for different audiences, and writing articles and books. Accompanying people through milestones of their lives and sharing Christ’s glory are what she loves most. Tina has a master’s degree in biblical and theological studies, and she lives in the Christian community SegensReich in Munich, Germany.

I. Basis: Gen 2:18 – How I am made.

II. Why should I? Reasons for Sharing Life

1. Economic
2. Spiritual

III. How could I? Various Models of Christian Communities Sharing Lives.

- A. Sharing Lives in Regular Meetings (Jour Fix)
- B. Building a Cell of Christian Community
- C. Sharing a House (One house, many apartments)
- D. Sharing an Apartment (Common Household)

IV. Will I? Next step.

Suggested Readings:

English:

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together. The Classic Exploration of Christian Community* (New York, NY: HarperOne, 2009).

Lawrence J. Crabb, *Connecting. Healing for Ourselves and Out Relationships. A Radical New Vision* (Nashville, TN: World Publishing, 1997).

Lawrence J. Crabb, *The safest place on earth. Where people connect and are forever changed* (Nashville, TN: World Publishing, 1999).

John Ortberg, *Everybody's normal till you get to know them* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003).

German:

Astrid Eichler, Irene und Thomas Widmer-Huber, *Es gibt was Anderes! Gemeinschaftliches Leben für Singles und Familien* (Witten: SCM R.Brockhaus, 2010).

Jean Vanier, *In Gemeinschaft leben* (Freiburg: Herder, 1993).