

# The Last Arrow

Week 2 – January 10, 2021

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10 and 1 Kings 12:1-15

*Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!*

**Share:** Have you ever looked at a "walking down the toy aisle with your toddler" type of scenario and wondered "how did I get here"?! Share a funny story that comes to mind.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and 1 Kings 12:1-15 together:** Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

## **Discuss the following context:**

Everyone has acquaintances, but many of us walk through our lives without discovering those people who God has put in our lives to help us become who we were made to be. How do we foster and develop those relationships? The only thing in life that impacts our future more than the choices we make are the people we choose to do life with. Today we continue to look at the powerful lessons found in the book, *The Last Arrow* by author and pastor Erwin McManus.

## **Share your thoughts about following questions:**

1. God's formative work in our lives happens in *community* not *individuality* (1 Peter 2:9-10). Anyone who feels they do not need a church community to follow Jesus is distorting God's design. Consider the ways our world is increasingly individualistic and antisocial. Do you believe the power of community that God created us to experience with each other is under attack? Why or why not?
2. Today the average person has more connections than they did 20 years ago because of the rise of social media. This doesn't mean we have more friends; it means we have more superficial acquaintances. God created man to be in community (Genesis 1:26) and to isolate ourselves is to live against His very design. How/where do you see isolation happening in your own circles?
3. Looking to a story of a new king's rise to power over Israel in a time when the nation of Israel was breaking its relationship with God (1 Kings 12:1-15), we see that a fractured relationship with God leads to a fractured relationship between people.
  - a. Often we make 'commitment' a relational type of transaction – if you do these certain things we can be in community but if you don't I'll go elsewhere. Could this apply to our relationship with "church" as well as the people in our lives? How?
  - b. The beauty of true Christ centered community is that it's not built on *OUR* strength and grace *but on HIS*. How can you develop and foster this type of community?
  - c. Erwin McManus says in his book, "*one of the best ways to identify where you're going in life is to identify who you're going with*". Consider inviting someone to get together, joining a small group, or even coming earlier/staying later at church. When our circle pulls in the direction of Jesus, we can go farther. What can you do today to move towards this?

**Pray together:** Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Ask God to help you make commitments built on His strength and grace, not ours. Ask God to eliminate the places in your life where you are not living like this. Pray for the confidence to step towards the people He desires for you. Jesus, cultivate our hearts to care about the things you care about, and let go of the things you don't.