



# *beautiful* COMMUNITY

***A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL CREATED  
BY A TEAM OF PEOPLE AT  
ADVENTURE OF FAITH***

## INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY (FOR GROUPS)

How's Yours?

Pick one person to be "It" and send them from the room. With the people remaining, select a common trait: hair, articles of clothing, or body parts all work. When the person returns, they'll ask someone, "How's yours?" That person should then give a one-word adjective to describe their trait. (Itchy, thick, and stretchy all work for shirts, for example.) Repeat until the person asking guesses the trait.



## REAL TALK:

THIS IS A TIME TO BE  
AUTHENTIC, WITH  
YOURSELF AND OTHERS.  
SHARE HOW YOU'RE  
DOING WITH GOD  
PERSONALLY AND PRAY  
FOR ONE ANOTHER.



## SERMON SUMMARY:

In Genesis, we see God make a covenant with Abram, promising that Abram will be the father of many nations. As we read the rest of the Bible, we see God uphold his covenant with Abram, fulfilling His promise and rescuing His people, despite all of Israel's unfaithfulness. Later, of course, Israel's unfaithfulness becomes our own unfaithfulness. Like the Israelites craved an idol while Moses was on Mt. Sinai, we crave control over our own destinies and tangible wealth over spiritual riches. So often, we succumb to our temptations. So often we are faithless. So often, we see God's faithfulness continue when ours has ended.

God's commitment to us is a covenant, not a contract: it's not dependent on each party holding up their end of the bargain. Despite our failings and despite our abandonment of God, He remains steadfast and honors the covenant He originated. When we are faithless, He is still faithful.

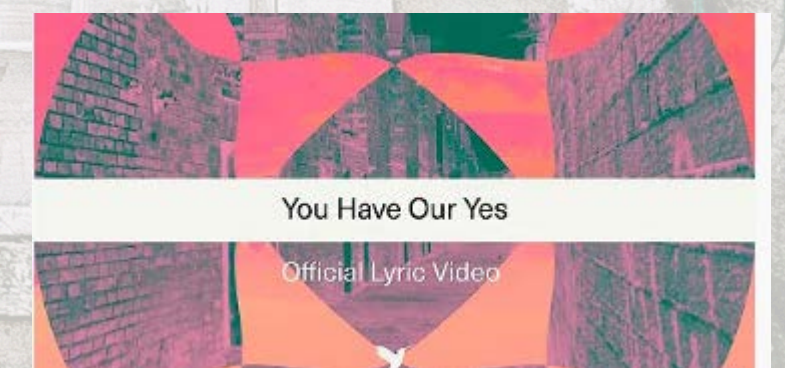
The type of beautiful community that we are supposed to be is a covenant community. As God loves us, so we should love each other. A covenant relationship is one where grace and forgiveness flow freely -- where our devotion to a brother or sister in Christ is not dependent on their devotion to us. Where they can be faithless and yet we remain faithful. The covenant with each other is necessary not only because God calls us to it, but because we can only have true intimacy with each other when we feel safe -- when we know that our community is in it for the long haul and that we won't be rejected because of our sins. Living in a covenant community is never easy and it's never simple. Fortunately, our Heavenly Father doesn't ask us to do it alone and extends abundant grace as we work through what it means to be a covenant body of believers.

## GOD ENCOUNTERS:

JOURNAL, THINK ABOUT, OR  
DISCUSS WITH YOUR  
GROUP HOW YOU HAVE  
ENCOUNTERED GOD IN YOUR  
LIFE THIS WEEK.

## WORSHIP SONG:

CLICK IN THIS AREA FOR A  
HYPERLINK TO YOUTUBE OR  
SEARCH FOR:  
YOU HAVE OUR  
YES | Vineyard  
Worship





## READ:

Acts 2:42

Luke 16:13

James 1:22-27

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

1 Corinthians 7:5

## Discuss:

1. What stands out in the scripture today?
2. Did God tug your heart in a specific direction when reading the scripture today?
3. Is your walk with Jesus more private than it is public?
4. What would the people around us say our lives were devoted to?

## Memory verse: Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

## PRAYER:

Gracious Father,

It is a blessing to receive guidance through your word and through the living example of your son. You teach us what is truly important. Historically, you have established many covenant relationships, with the most important one being the New Covenant through Christ. We know this relationship is everlasting. Help us to enter into friendships, marriage, or faith with complete dedication and devotion. Help us to live our lives completely committed to you so that it will impact every relationship we have and every endeavor we undertake.

In Jesus Name,

Amen