

# Called Together disciple guide

The Journey Fellowship  
Missional Community Group  
Spring 2020

## Week #5

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

#### • PASSAGE: EPH 3:14-21

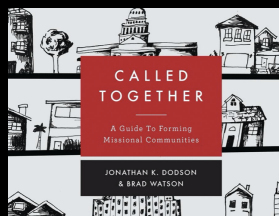
*14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

#### Become a Community - Share

- Tell us your favorite band?
- Best concert you've ever attended?
- Tell us your story.
- How can we pray for you this week?

Take a Group Photo - find a fun hat, wear it!

Close your time in prayer!  
Use Popcorn Prayer - one sentence prayers, multiples are allowed.



### Lesson: WHAT IS COMUNITY?

#### •BIG PICTURE

- The gospel of Jesus is the center of community
- How we begin sharing life as a community
- Reminding each other of the gospel

#### Discuss.

What comes to mind when you think of "community"?

#### Key Text.

1 Timothy 3:14, 15 | *14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

#### Remember.

Paul often uses a family metaphor to describe the church - "the household of God, which is the church of the living God." In fact, he opens almost every one of his letters to church by calling them brothers/sisters. Community is clearly conceived as family. The community/church is created to support and protect the truth of the gospel. So, the church then is a set of relationships centered on the gospel. The church is made alive by the Spirit to give and receive the gospel as God's new community. Community is a gospel-centered family.

#### What Community Isn't

This means community is not:

- A book club centered on a particular doctrine or curriculum, even the bible
- A social club centered on your connections or relational needs
- A counseling group where we get our therapy
- A social service group focused on doing good deeds
- An affinity group based on life stage or preferences
- An event or meeting focused on a convenient timeslot

#### Discuss.

Why do the listed items fail as "community"? What happens when a church/community has the wrong center?

What is it about these things that makes them easy or tempting to place at the center? If Jesus is the center of our community, what happens to the needs in the list?

#### Key Text.

Acts 2:42-47 | *42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[d] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

#### What Community Is

What elements of the early church strike you?

What does this tell us about the personality of the group?

Why did they live this way?

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## Discuss.

What are the activities, what does this kind of community do?

Which of these things, personality traits or activities most excites you? Which ones feel like the greatest challenge?

How does doing/being these things change when we do them in community vs individually?

Does this kind of community feel attractive or intimidating? Why?

## Think About.

The hope of the gospel is that we don't have to be a perfect community because Jesus was perfect for us. When we inevitably let one another down, we point each other to Jesus who lifts us up.

Religious Community = "If I keep the community rules, then people will accept me."

Gospel Community = "We are already accepted in Christ; therefore, we love, forgive, and accept one another."

This is the good news that frees us performing for God or the community. You don't have to impress God because Jesus already has. We get to be imperfect people clinging to a perfect Jesus.

## Discuss.

What would it look like if we became this kind of community?

What has to change in us?

What has to change in our priorities?

Is it worth it? Why?