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Priority: Community

March 29, 2020

Reading/Group Discussion

Break the virtual ice (5 minutes)

When you gather online with your group, have fun by beginning with a moment of show and tell. Have each person pick an item they cherish in their home and show it to the group. Then, have each person explain why they picked that item and what it means to them.

Begin with prayer (5 minutes)

As you begin your virtual gathering, have someone open your time together by praying that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together.

Checking the pulse (10 minutes)

Use a few minutes catching up on how everyone has been. Make sure that everyone has time and space to share what is happening in their lives.

Then, spend a few moments with each person answering this question: in this season of your life, where do you think God is inviting you to grow, lean in, simplify, rest, or eliminate?

Read this overview

This past weekend Dan talked about our 6th priority as a church family: **COMMUNITY**. In his sermon, he talked about how community is an essential component to growing in our faith.

Despite our culture prizing individualism, what we need to realize is that when we were rescued from our sin, we were also given a new family – the church. This has all sorts of implications for us. This means we stick with each other through good times and bad, we show up for one another, we honor one another, we are devoted to one another, we speak the truth to one another, we share our possessions with one another, and so on.

This is a shift from how we typically think about the people sitting next to us on Sundays, but it's a shift that the early writers of the Bible (and Jesus too!) make quite clear.

Because of this, as a church, we want to prioritize: *Valuing relationships and building our lives together as family.*

Talk through this past weekend's sermon & encourage one another (20-30 minutes)

Here are a few questions to guide this time:

- How did this weekend's sermon deepen your faith? How did it challenge you? Explain.
- How would you define "Christian community?" When we come together, what is it that we are doing?
- In total transparency, how would you describe the relational level of your group based on the words that Dan used to describe different types of friendships (Casual, Committed, or Covenant)? Explain your answer.
- What is the difference between Casual relationships, Committed relationships, and Covenantal relationships?
- Which word would you use to describe where your Christian community is at right now? Explain.
- What do you need from your community right now to help you become more like Jesus?
- How have you experienced help from your Christian community? How have you experienced hurt from your Christian community?
- In light of what's happening in the world, how is having Christ-centered community more important now than ever?
- In what ways is thinking about your Christian community as family similar or dissimilar to how you previously thought about Christian community?
- How does this passage, sermon, or daily work challenge you to live differently?

As a church, we affirm that God is always working. He is always directing, leading, and guiding us. Spend some time discussing what God is inviting you into right now.

- What do you sense God doing **in** you that you need to respond to?
- What do you sense God doing **around** you that you think he is inviting you into?
- What do you sense God doing **through** you that you need courage for?

Spend time thinking through how your group can be #FORTHE317 (5 minutes)

Try asking the following:

- How can we serve one another?
- How can you best serve your family in this time?
- What is a way that we can best serve our neighbors in this time?

Finish with prayer (5-10 minutes)

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.