



VIDEO #4 – COMMUNITY.

Life with Jesus is being part of a family that loves and sacrifices for one another!

OVERVIEW

As Christians we are included into the family of God and we are called to love one another sacrificially in this life. This isn't always easy to do, but there is a joy and a blessing that comes as we live a life that sacrifices for one another. This Life Series video is meant to encourage you to not miss out on the joy and blessing of community.

[Click Here](#) for YouTube Link.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this discussion it is our hope and prayer that everyone knows the following Truths:

- JESUS SAID THE WAY WE LOVE OTHERS IS ONE WAY PEOPLE WOULD KNOW WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES.
- CHURCH IS NOT JUST A BUILDING, BUT A VIBRANT, NECESSARY COMMUNITY OF JESUS FOLLOWERS WHO ARE BOTH SUPPORTIVE AND MISSIONAL.
- GOD HAS GIVEN EACH BELIEVER UNIQUE AND NECESSARY GIFTS AND CALLINGS TO LOVINGLY BUILD EACH OTHER UP THAT WE ALL MIGHT EXPERIENCE HIS ABUNDANT LIFE.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After watching the video by yourself or as a group, please go through the following discussion/reflection questions to help these truths sink into your heart and mind. These questions are simply meant to guide you, so feel free to go off script and follow the discussion or your thoughts wherever it takes you to fully explore and embrace the Objectives!

Objective #1 – Jesus said the way we love others is one way people would know we are His Disciples.

Read John 13:34-35.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jesus, John 13:34-35 ESV)

Q: Jesus says to His followers that we are to love one another as He has loved us. What would loving fellow believers in this way look like practically?

Q: Where have you seen this type of love demonstrated amongst believers or where have you seen it lacking?

Q: Jesus said that loving others in this way would let people know we follow Him. Why does Jesus put an emphasis on our radical love for one another as an important sign to the world that we are His?

Q: In what ways can you begin to practically love fellow believers with the same love that Jesus does?

Objective #2 – Church is not just a building, but a vibrant, necessary community of Jesus followers who are both supportive and missional.

Read Acts 2:42-47.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all

the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 NIV)

Note: This passage takes place during the time of the early church, shortly after Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven. In here we see the characteristics of the vibrant early church community led by Jesus's original disciples.

Q: What sticks out to you about the believers in the early church (think in both terms of attitude and action)?

Q: How do these attitudes and actions differ from what you have seen and experienced in your own life?

Q: What things surprised you when reading about the early church? What things would you like to incorporate into your church community and how would you do that?

Q: What does this verse say about how a vibrant faith community impacts reaching the lost? Why do you think that is?

Objective #3 – God has given each believer unique and necessary gifts and callings to lovingly build each other up that we all might experience His abundant life.

Read Romans 12:4-8.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:4-8, ESV)

Note: In this passage the Apostle Paul refers to us as a Body with many parts and just like a human body each part must be healthy and play its part well for the whole body to be whole and effective. Feel free to also read 1st Corinthians 12 if you want to explore more on gifts and the Body of Christ.

Q: Who is it that gives us the abilities and gifts to play our part? Do we have any decision in what role we play or is it assigned? Do we have any decision in how well we fulfill our role?

Q: Here we see a list of gifts and abilities that people might have. Is this an exhaustive list or are there others and if so what might they be?

Q: Where have you seen these gifts and abilities used well with the Church Body? Where have you seen them lacking?

Q: In what way do you see these gifts helping the overall health of the Church Body? In what ways have some of these gifts caused harm or division?

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

The following is a series of activities that you can do to help take the ideas you learned in this video and discussion and apply them to your life!

Activity #1 – Take some time and reflect on what you have in terms of time, talent and treasure (money and material possessions) and in what ways you can share those things and support other believers. To help with this you can take one of several gift and/or personality assessments like StrengthsFinder, Enneagram, or Spiritual Gifts Inventory.

Activity #2 – Based on what you come up with from Activity #1, make a list of a couple ways you can use what God has given you to show sacrificial love to others. Then do these things!

Activity #3 – Come up with a plan on how you might grow and further develop your gifts and talents. This can be through finding a mentor, practicing abilities, or volunteering. Start that process!