

# Faith Mission / Vision / Values

## Study Questions Week 3

### Community



#### □ Day 1

📖 **Read Acts 2:42-47**

🧠 **Answer (Write or Think):**

1. What are some things that stand out to you about the early church (e.g. what they did, how they lived)?
2. What is difficult for you about the idea of “community”?
3. Do you think “belonging comes before believing”? Why or why not?
4. What is one practical thing you could do this week to (a) build up or (b) live in Christian community with others?

🙏 **Pray** – Pray these verses by:

Praising God for the way the first church stood out from the world,  
Asking God to help the church be the light of the world,  
Asking God for you to bless and be blessed by Christian community.

#### □ Day 2

📖 **Read Ephesians 4:1-6**

🧠 **Answer (Write or Think):**

1. What’s the connection between “unity” and “community”?
2. What are some of Paul’s *individual* commands to his readers, in order for them to live in unity *together*?
3. Which of these commands is most difficult for you these days?

📖 **Read this Prayer of Confession** (*you can replace “we” with “I”*):

*God of grace, we grieve that the church,  
which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken  
communion in a broken world.*

*The one body spans all time, place, race, and language,  
but in our fear we have fled from and fought one another,  
and in our pride we have mistaken our part for the whole.*

*Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work,  
that you bless us with joy, with growth, and with signs of unity.*

*Forgive our sins and help us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity  
of the body of Christ.*

*In his name, Amen.*

## □ Day 3

### **Read 1 Peter 2:9-10**

#### **Answer (Write or Think):**

1. What are the words and phrases that Peter uses to describe the body of Christ?
2. Choose one of those phrases and describe how it comforts you today.

#### **Read this quote from Henri Nouwen:**

*Why is it so important that solitude come before community? If we do not know we are the beloved sons and daughters of God, we're going to expect someone in the community to make us feel that way. They cannot. We'll expect someone to give us that perfect unconditional love. But community is not loneliness grabbing onto loneliness: "I'm so lonely, and you're so lonely." It's solitude grabbing onto solitude: "I am the beloved; you are the beloved; together we can build a home."*

3. How should your identity in Christ impact your view of Christian community?
4. What areas of unbelief (about yourself or community) do you need to repent of today?

#### **Pray** – Pray these verses by:

Repenting of any unbelief about being God's "beloved,"  
Asking God for a proper view of your brothers and sisters in Christ, and  
Thanking God for calling you into a personal relationship with Christ as well as a community of believers.