

# SERMON GUIDE



## AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

*Sunday, September 13, 2020*

***NOTE:** This guide is primarily written for group contexts (small groups, families). If doing on your own, we would encourage you to use a journal to respond to questions so that you can look back on your growth.*



### OPENER

*This section is to get your group dialoging about the sermon topic.*

*(Suggested Time: ~ 5 minutes)*

- **What is the best community/friend group you have ever been a part of and why?**



### LEARN

*This section will help your group respond to the sermon content, as well as take a deeper dive into God's Word to continue to shape what God's Truth has to say about it.*

*(Suggested Time: ~ 20-25 minutes)*

- **What stood out in the sermon? What did you agree or disagree with? What do you have questions about?**
- **Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud. How is this fellowship ('koinonia') different from church groups you have been a part of? Why do we struggle to live up to this? Do you think your non-Christian friends would be attracted to this community?**

- **Why is it important that we are a part of God’s family? How can our individual mindsets hurt the way we read the Bible and how important community is in Scripture?**
  - Sometimes, Christians believe their faith is entirely personal. As we saw throughout the sermon, our faith is personal, but it is not meant to be lived alone.
- **Many of the New Testament letters are devoted to the mess of fellowship. Look together at 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 and Colossians 3:12-17, two passages Pastor Jon quoted.**
  - What disunifying practices is Paul addressing?
  - How are Paul’s commands still applicable today with different denominations and even beliefs in churches?
  - When we recognize the early church was not perfect, what hope does it give us?
- **We are designed for community because God is communal.**
  - How would you describe the Trinity to someone? What are you unsure about?
  - Read Deut. 6:4, 1 Cor. 8:6, Phil. 2:5-11, Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 13:14. How do these texts together help us to understand the Trinity?
  - Read Genesis 1:26 (emphasis on ‘us’ and ‘our’). What does it mean that we are made in God’s image?



## PRACTICE

*This section gives you and your group an opportunity to “try” what you’re learning in a safe space. This will be a moment to try and put “flesh on” something you’re learning.*

*(Suggested Time: ~ 10-15 minutes)*

- **Community happens when we are vulnerable with one another. Have everyone share 1 way your group can help you grow spiritually or 1 way you are struggling with the mess of authentic community.**

 **GROW**

*This section is about determining personal or communal application points in light of what you've learned and discussed. This is a time to be specific and "measurable" in your application of God's Word so that your community can encourage you and hold you accountable.*

*(Suggested Time: ~ 10-15 minutes)*

- **Pastor Jon cited a study that 60% of Christians do not feel like they progressed in their faith last year. Is that you? Why or why not?**
  - What is one step this next week that you could do to pursue growth (Bible reading, prayer, service, etc.)?
- **How can your community grow into more of an Acts 2 church?**
  - CHALLENGE 1: If you're not in a group, join one.
  - CHALLENGE 2: Start as a group by breaking bread together.
- **What is one thing, in light of this week's message and study, that you need to START, STOP, or CHANGE in your life THIS WEEK?**

 **PRAY**

*This is your time to share requests, and pray out loud together as a group for each other.*

*(Suggested Time: ~ 10 minutes)*

- **Share your prayer requests together and close with prayer as a group.**