

Community

July 19, 2020

THINGS THAT
MATTER

Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

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

The last several months have been a doozy...to say the least. From the COVID-19 crisis, to racial unrest in America reaching international attention, we've witnessed unprecedented change and tension in our country. During the chaos, we've been reminded of the importance of certain values—and while we've always known they mattered, 2020 has highlighted their significance as never before.

This past weekend, Eric taught us about community from John 15.

Scripture + Discussion

Have someone read **John 15:1-17**. Then, talk through the questions below.

- How did this sermon/text deepen your faith? How did it challenge you?
- Where do you feel most connected to community today? What would feeling deeply connected to a community be like for you?
- If you had an ideal Christian community, what would it look like? What expectations would you have of that group? What expectations do you expect the group to have of you?
- How are you helping your current community to look, live, and love like Jesus? How might you be hindering your community from doing so?
- How might your life be enhanced, your relationship with God enriched, and your understanding of the kingdom of God enlarged by engaging with Christian community?
- How have past experiences informed how you engage with Christian community?
- What is God inviting you into as a result of your reflections this week?

Accountability

Take some time again this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- In what ways might you have hurt a brother or sister in Christ that you need to confess?
- What has your time in the Scriptures been like this week? In prayer?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

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.