

THIS WEEK THINK ABOUT...

The people you spend time with, and your thoughts about the different people.

What prevents you from authentic and vulnerable community.

PRAYER

Father God, you have adopted me into your family, calling me your child.
You have given me a new family, with brothers and sisters who are also your children.
Help me to see people the way you see them, and to love people I interact with.

LIFE TOGETHER QUESTIONS

What does community look like in your life? Who, when and how often are you together with?

Do people know you? Do you carry secrets that you are afraid of letting someone know about? What would it take to let someone know your secrets?

What prevents you from spending time with people?



WEEK 6

COMMUNITY

VIDEO RECAP

Small Group starter videos can be found on the Christ Church website under small group resources.

SERMON RECAP

Matthew 5-7

This is a picture of what changes for Kingdom community to show itself. When Jesus concludes what we call the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) with the parable of the sand and the rock (Matthew 7.24-27)

Community can be stopped by many things, sometimes by seeking to avoid those we don't want to have affect us. In the first century Jewish world, people with leprosy were prime examples.

Community can also be stopped by people we only see as enemies. This makes sense because we don't trust them, nor should we necessarily. Yet, in Matthew 8:5-13, Jesus stops, listens, hears, engages the centurion, the military representative of Roman domination.

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read out loud -Matthew 8:1-13

How is Jesus breaking expectations for community?

Have you experienced Jesus naming, touching or healing you? What has or what would that look like for you? What has been or is your response to that possibility?

What kinds of people do you avoid? Why? What is your rationale? What do you fear? What would stopping, hearing, touching, healing require of you?

What does Jesus do that is surprising? What does the centurion do that is surprising? What does Jesus say is noteworthy about the centurion's request? Why?

How does this story affect how we see community? What is disrupted here? What are some of the implications of that?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

If we are really honest, when and how are we enemies to Jesus? How has Jesus responded to us? How does the centurion's faith comfort or challenge you?

How good are you at actually hearing your enemies? Do you hear their need? Do you hear or see their faith?

What does or could it mean to follow Jesus in loving enemies? How would that affect your experience of community?

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