

Surviving the End of Everything (sort of) - Week 9

Spiritual Practice - Listening Prayer: Start your group with a lectio divina practice. Read Psalm 142. What word or phrase captures your heart? Repeat these words to yourself, and imagine Jesus speaking them over you. Let these words rest inside you and bring you peace.

Angie started her sermon explaining her experience as a shortstop, while playing softball through college. This taught her the importance of defined roles within teams. In life, like group sports, we often win or lose as a team. It is important to know your role and understand your team needs. Sometimes the needs of the team reveal that we need to play different roles, despite where we feel comfortable.

Discussion Questions:

Read Acts 6:1-7 Positions & Roles

One parallel between our current experience and the experience of the disciples revealed here is that we need to pay attention to what's not working. We also need to know, prioritize, and play our role (within the team). As the new church was forming and evolving, so too did roles within the community change to accommodate the needs of the church. The Hellenists clearly communicated to the apostles their needs within the community. It is important to communicate any needs, especially during a time of anxiety, change, or unrest.

- We are experiencing a lot of things not working. What isn't working for you right now?
 - Are you doing too much? We might need to give ourselves GRACE and let something go.
 - Do you feel like you aren't doing enough? Are you missing a sense of purpose? How can you better serve the people in your life and community? Are you able to volunteer at the Center of Hope? Pray for people? Read the bible? Deliver cards or letters?
- In this season, if something isn't working for you, speak up! Advocate for what you need instead of gossiping or suffering alone and harboring unforgiveness.

If you are struggling with knowing your role, consider meditating on the following questions. Give yourself time and grace to respond. Just as first responders and ER nurses need to make sure that they are healthy before they take care of others, we need to make sure that we are spiritually healthy before ministering to those in our lives.

- How is your relationship with Jesus?
- How are you taking care of yourself?
- How are you engaging with or taking care of the people God has given you (your team)?