

Message 1 of 4: Saints Together

The Way: Learning to Walk with God Together

Small group discussion questions

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. What is the context of the letter?

What are the benefits of living in Christian community? Describe ways that being in community has helped you learn to walk with God.

If Christian community is so beneficial, why do some opt out?

As a reminder of one reason people opt out of community, read the quote below from Dietrich Bonhoeffer from Life Together. What do you think he is saying?

Every human wish dream that is injected into the Christian community is a hinderance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive. He who loves his dream of community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter...He enters the community of Christians with demands, sets up his own law, and judges the brethren and God Himself accordingly...He acts as if he is the center of the Christian community, as if his dream binds men together. When things do not go his way, he calls the effort a failure. When his ideal picture is destroyed, he sees the community going to smash. (Life Together, Bonhoeffer, 27-28)

In 1 Corinthians 1:2, the apostle describes community as being "saints together." What are characteristics of people who are saints together according to verse 2?

In 1 Corinthians 1:4, what does Paul give thanks for when he thinks about the Christians in Corinth?

The main point of the message is, Receive community as a gift from God. How does 1 Corinthians 1:4 convey this idea? Why was this described as the secret to how community works?

In 1 Corinthians 1:5-9, what effects do you see upon the lives of those who have received the grace of God?

What is messy about Christian community? Is it worth it? Why or Why not?

Why do some opt out of Christian community? What is the impact of opting out?

Talk about the level of personal commitment to Christian community. Why do you have that commitment? How could you strengthen your commitment?

How do the new identities in the Growth Grid speak to community?