

The Church as Family: UNITY

START: (10 min)

1. How was your week?
2. Conversation Starter (*optional*): If you could choose any fictional character to join our small group for a day, who would it be and why?

GOSPEL: This series on The Church as Family will be exploring who the church is and what is the church supposed to do. This week's topic is Church Unity.

1. How have you experienced unity or disunity within the church or other communities?
2. How does Christian unity affect the world's perception of Jesus and His message?
3. What practical steps can we take to reflect the unity that Jesus desires for us?
4. Read about the first church's unity in Acts 2:44-47. How did their unity impact their community and the growth of the church?
5. What can we learn from the early church about living in unity today?
6. Discuss examples of how "Absalom Syndrome" (thinking we could do better) and the "Offended Syndrome" (holding onto wrongs) can disrupt unity.
7. What specific actions can we take as a small group to promote unity within our church?
8. Share an example of how grace, forgiveness, or patience has helped maintain unity in a difficult situation.
9. What is one thing you will commit to doing this week to contribute to the unity of our church community?

PRAYER: Take some time to pray for one another's needs. In addition, pray for the unity of the Church at large and the unity of our own local church.