

# Sermon Guide



## “Spiritually Formed Community” September 25, 2022

“...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...”

### 1 Peter 2

1. **JC said that we live in the tension of two realities: first, we are made for community. Second, when it comes to community, we often idolize our preferences as well as people’s perceptions of us.** How have you seen that tension in your own life recently (your need for community as well as your bent towards idolizing preferences and perceptions in community?)
2. **In our walks with Jesus, we also idolize comfort.** While comfort isn’t bad per se, we can’t grow and take steps of faith while idolizing comfort. Are there ways you seek comfort that stunt your growth in Christ? Or your ability to respond to His call?
3. **JC encouraged us to consider how we spend each week.** If we spend each day of our week focused on something other than Christ, we should not be surprised that we arrive to church on Sunday feeling lack of growth in Christ as well as relational distance with Him.
  1. Take two to three minutes for silent reflection. What do the days of your week look like? Mondays? Tuesdays? Wednesdays? Do you have spiritual practices throughout your week? How do your weeks help you foster the life you are called to in Christ?
4. **“We need other people to lock arms with as we pursue Christ.”** JC said that he has two to three people who know almost everything about him. Do you?
  1. If so, how did those relationships develop? How did you foster intentional community with them?
  2. If not, what has hindered you? Busyness? Not being vulnerable? Lack of access to people who want depth with Christ? (Try to be honest here; remember, we often idolize our preferences rather than look with spiritual eyes. Are there Christ followers in your life?)
5. **JC said the enemy tries to define us.** In what ways is the enemy currently trying to define you? As each person shares, take time to share truth with each other. What do you see in that person? Is that lie true of them?
6. **“The community that you call your people... Is it alive? What makes it alive?”** JC said that, for a community to be alive, the group must pursue freedom in Christ and confession of sin.
  1. Take a minute or two for reflection, then share honest responses. Is your group alive in Him? Or does it feel more like a social club than a “spiritual house”?

**We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus.** As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?