

Held Together **Discussion Questions**

1. When community has gotten hard in your experience what has been your default response — leaving, checking out emotionally, forming a smaller inner circle, or something else? What do you think drives that response in you?

2. The sermon described the protective posture as something that often feels spiritual — like we are being faithful or discerning — when it may actually be protection from disappointment. Does that land for you? Where have you seen that in yourself or others?

3. Jesus prays John 17 with full knowledge of the betrayal, denial, and scattering that is coming. What does it mean to you that he prays for unity anyway — and that he specifically includes you in that prayer?

4. The sermon defined glory as God becoming visible in situations that have no natural explanation. What would it look like for that kind of glory to be visible in your specific relationships and community right now?

5. The sermon spoke to two people — the one who has stepped back and the one who has stayed and is weary. Which one resonates more with where you are right now and what would it look like to take one step forward from that place this week?

These questions should spark deeper reflection and meaningful conversation about the key points of the sermon.