2020 Community Groups
WEEKLY GUIDE

July 12th In the Mix – "Look for opportunities to respond out of unity"

Pastor Aaron, continued our new series this week, entitled: "In the Mix: "Look for opportunities to respond out of unity." Pastor Aaron challenged us to think about the meaningfulness of our relationships and who might stop everything to mourn with us…to celebrate with us. You have to ask yourself, "who are the 3 to 10 people that make you feel a sense of belonging, safety, acceptance, and unconditional love?" Are you that person for others? He talked about the Upper Room Discourse, which was a snapshot of Jesus' relationships, with His crew (the 12), and His inner circle (Peter, James, and John). Jesus has a love for all people…"God so loved the world"… and he calls us into that same level of love for each other.

Community Prayer:
Father, you have protected us in the middle of this pandemic, encouraged us to love each other deeply to overcome hatred, and now we thank you for equipping us once again as we are "In the Mix" of all that is going on around us; through your Word today shape us and mold us in unity with each other, where you have called us to live; in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Opening Questions
Do you have people in your life that you can count on no matter what? If so, how many?

- Share why you know this about that person.
- What was a time or situation where they showed up for you?
- Have you had a time in your life where you were not sure if you had people that would fit this description? Reflect on that time and talk about why?

EXPLORATION

Read the passages below…what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

John 13: 1

1. How has Jesus shown His love for you during this season?
2. Do you think Jesus was ever disappointed with people? Why?
3. Have <u>you</u> ever disappointed others? Talk about the emotions tied up in disappointment.

4. How do you learn to handle disappointment and grow stronger?

John 13: 2-4

5. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? How did you handle this?

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power"
This is an example of the Godhead (The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit) working together in perfect unity.

6. What does the unity of the Trinity have to do with the quality of our community?

Trinity

1 God, 3 in person: one in essence, distinct and yet fully God; Unified, Loving, Relational, Intentional.

John 17: 20-23

7. Share your feelings knowing that Jesus is praying for us to be one?
8. How do others see God living in you?
9. How do we get to a place of complete unity in this crazy broken world that continues to turn upside down?
10. When we reach the place of complete unity how does this effect the world?

John 13: 12-15

11. Share what you think Jesus was demonstrating by washing the Disciples feet?

THE TAKEAWAY

Jesus loved His disciples to the end = 'to the fullest extent, the uttermost'

His love has no limits:

- The disciples in short order will leave him, but he will never leave them, or us.
- The disciples may stop thinking about him, but he won't ever stop thinking about them, or us.

- The disciples may face division among themselves, but he will always work to unite them, and us.
- The disciple Peter would forsake Jesus 3 times, Jesus will not forsake Peter, or us.

This kind of love, this kind of unity is only possible through the power of God at work in our lives. It shapes our lives, it forms our homes, and our friendships are marked by God's divine invitation. Our marriages are sustained by the Spirit's uniting force. Our families and love for our neighbors is experienced in its fullness only as a response to the deeper work Christ is doing in us. Our churches are places where selfishness and personal preference are laid on the altar. Our worship is pure, and our conversations encourage as we build each other to live 'all in' for God's glory.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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