

BETTER TOGETHER



DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1

Purpose Over Preference

ICEBREAKER:

What was it like for you to visit a new church for the first time? Were you nervous about being different? How were you received??

BIG IDEA:

Today's big idea: Church is not about our preferences but our shared purpose: Connecting people to Jesus, others, and their purpose in Him.

DAILY BIBLE READING (*Optional*):

Our daily Bible readings prepare us for the message (www.findcommunity.com/biblereading).

> Psalm 67; Isaiah 51:1-5; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 1:8

> Was there a particular passage that stood out to you?

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-46; Acts 15:19

DISCUSSION:

1. How do you follow Jesus' command to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:18-20)? What does this look like in your weekly life?
2. The early church was characterized by their commitment to meet in the temple courts (Acts 2:46). Why is this commitment to corporate worship such an important aspect of faith development?
3. Even for those who saw Jesus raised, it was easy to let cultural preference supersede purpose. Acts 15 describes one of the major conflicts in the early church, but also offers a resolution: "we should not make it difficult for people who are turning to God" (Acts 15:19). What do we learn about the purpose of the church from this story and decision?

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. Who made it easy for you to turn to God? How are you doing that for others?
2. Often times, the older a church is, the more it drifts towards making it difficult for new believers (e.g. the drift towards insiders and away from outsiders; the drift towards rules and away from grace; the drift towards preserving instead of advancing). Have you experienced any of these drifts in your own heart? How might you combat that?
3. Are you eager to join in the 21 Days of Prayer? Why or why not?

Take Time To Pray:

There are times we can get caught up in chasing our own preferences and we lose sight of the bigger picture of Jesus' mission. Take time praying as a group for God to reveal where you might've sought your own preferences at the cost of others coming to Jesus. Pray for courage and perseverance as you lay down your own preferences so that others can connect to Jesus, others, and their purpose in Him.



Daily Devotion



Prayer



Freedom from
Strongholds



Serve the
Community



Sacrificial
Generosity



Share Your
Story



Celebration