

becoming a CATALYST

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

Acts 2:42-43



If you were stranded on a deserted island and could only bring three friends, what qualities would you want them to have?

- 1. Read Acts 2:42-47.** According to this passage, what specific practices help build genuine community with one another?
 - Which of these practices do you think are easy to do?
 - Which do you find difficult?
- 2. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** indicates the benefits of community – what problems may arise if someone tries to live for Jesus on their own?
 - What are some reasons people avoid letting others know the truth about their struggles?
 - Think about your life situation – do you have someone who knows your struggles, doubts, fears and joys? If not what is the biggest obstacle in confiding in someone?
- 3. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18.** Jonathan strengthened David's faith in God during a difficult time, what does spiritual encouragement look like beyond simply saying "I'll pray for you"?
 - Who has the greatest influence in your life – how are they shaping the person you are becoming?
 - What is the difference between friends who make you feel better, and friends who make us become better?

4. In **Luke 19:1-10** how would Jesus actions towards Zacchaeus have shocked those looking on?
 - How does Jesus actions demonstrate both grace and truth?
 - Did Jesus actions mean Jesus approved or condoned all that Zacchaeus had done? Why or why not?
 - Jesus moved towards those who others moved away from – what opportunities to do that do you have in your life?
5. What warnings does **James 2:1-4** have about how we treat different people?
 - What behaviours or characteristics in others are most likely to make you feel uncomfortable or cause you to keep your distance?
 - What can help you overcome this feeling or attitude?
 - Are there people who may find it difficult to feel welcomed at Catalyst?
 - What practical steps can you take to help them belong?

Are we attending or truly belonging?

6. What do you see as the difference between attending Church and actually belonging to it?
 - How can people attend Church regularly for years while remaining mostly unknown by other Christians?
 - What may be some reasons that prevent people from wanting to becoming known? How can we help them overcome this?
7. Which of the following is currently your greatest growth opportunity?
 - Being known by others
 - Being sharpened by others
 - Making room for others
8. What is one step you can take to strengthen the faith community in your life?
9. Who is someone that God may be prompting you to move toward, encourage, include or support this week?