

Discussion Starter: What is your favorite show to watch on TV? If you don't watch TV much now, is there a show in the past that you really liked? What draws/drew you to that show?

Prayer

Discussion Questions:

What are some of the reasons that you think modern Americans continually report that they feel isolated and lonely (*too busy, move frequently, separated from family, communicate electronically, etc.*)?

Why is it so dangerous and frustrating to be separated from a real sense of community – especially the fellowship of other Christians?

Read **John 1:12**. How does someone become part of the family of God? If you are part of the family of God, describe your experience of becoming part of His family.

Ephesians 1:5 tells us that God created Christians to live as a family. Describe a time when you (or someone else you have watched go through it) experienced a challenge/difficulty to your faith as a result of trying to live as a solo or “lone ranger” Christian.

According to **Acts 2:42-47**, what should the family of God look like? In light of this passage and our current economic difficulties or an extended time of sickness, why is it so essential to be connected to God's family before seasons of hardship arise (*discuss benefits of Acts 2 passage again; once the hardship starts, it's hard to find the time and energy to connect with others in order to gain the benefits*)? How can someone who bounces from church to church every few months or years – or even someone who shows up on Sunday mornings for years and years to fill a pew without ever engaging in a small group environment – fall into this danger zone just as easily as someone who never attends church at all?

Describe a time in the past when you have been hurt by members of the family of God (*be careful as leaders to make sure that the discussion is about something truly in the past – and is not gossip about a current situation*). Why do you think that people get hurt so often when they try to connect with a church (*the church is full of broken, sick, and sinful people*)? How do you think Jesus wants you to respond when another Christian hurts you (*forgiveness and reconciliation – not just run away from the problem and join another church*)?

Let's say that a neighbor or family members tells you that they are a Christian but that they have not attended church for years and do not plan to do so again anytime soon. Having just experienced our discussion tonight, how would you respond? (*As the leader, you may want to take on the role of the person arguing that you do not need God's family, allowing your group to attempt to correct you in love.*)