



# LET'S GO: LOVE THE CHURCH

## Warm-Up Question:

Share your experience with church growing up. Did you go? Enjoyable? Burden?

**READ: Acts 2:42-47**

## I. THE BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY: TOGETHER

- ▶ Read the New City Catechism Q.48 to the right. From it, give a definition in your own words if your neighbor were to ask you, "What is the church?"
- ▶ From Acts 2:42-47, what were all the different things that these early believers were doing together? What things are most attractive to you?
- ▶ Read Acts 2:6-11, 46-47. How was the church inclusive from the beginning? Describe some different categories of people Jesus impacted.
- ▶ Read Acts 12:12-27. What are the implications of all being members of one body (of Christ)? Try to find at least one implication from each verse.
- ▶ Share some ways you've personally been blessed by the church, the body of Christ. Are there ways you'd like to be more connected?

## II. THE BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY: BELOVED

- ▶ Read Eph. 5:25b-27 & discuss what Christ thinks of & did for the church. From it, what does Christ think of & do for you personally?
- ▶ The Bible shows God's grace coming through our mutual ministry to "one another" (OA). Which of the following are most important to your spiritual growth? Which are you least experiencing?
  - Care for OA    • Encourage OA    • Build up OA    • Instruct OA
  - Exhort OA    • Confess your sin to OA    • Bear OA's burdens
- ▶ Take a moment to encourage others with whom are doing this discussion guide. How have they done any of the above "one-another's" to you?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

## **New City Catechism Q. 48**

### **Q) What is the church?**

A) God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

### **Digging Deeper**

- ◆ What is God calling me to do? How would it change my life if I really believed & lived it out?
- ◆ What makes this difficult (our sin, idolatry, weakness, finiteness, inconsistency)?
- ◆ What does the text say about:
  - 1) My relationship with God
  - 2) My view of myself
  - 3) My relationship with others (family, friends, neighbors)
  - 4) My work/calling
- ◆ What is the grace or promise of God that motivates me to do these things?

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