

## Rediscover Church • Week 3 • Do We Really Need to Gather?

1) Rank the following types of gatherings in order of your preference, most favorite to least ...

- Family Reunion - Music Concert - Sports Event/Game - Birthday Party
- Having a few good friends over for dinner - Wedding & Reception/Party

2) Explain the reasons for your favorite and least-favorite choices . . .

### **The church gathering shapes a people.**

It shapes us collectively into a culture, a force, or a movement. The gathering offers a visual testimony for the world to see. Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.' We are meant to regularly gather together, see one another, encourage and correct one another ... spiritual things happen when we stand elbow to elbow, join our voices in song, hear the same sermon and partake of the bread together.

3) How does the church gathering shape us as the family of God? In what ways have you been shaped by gathering with the people in your church family?

4) "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." - Hebrews 10:24-25. Why is it important to meet together? According to these verses, what benefits do we give and receive when we meet together?

5) How does the church gathering together (for worship, fellowship, service, mission) help us overcome the hyper-individualism and the pursuit of comfort and convenience that is so prevalent in our culture today?

6) In what ways has gathering with the church forced you to hold loosely to your own preferences, priorities, and possessions? How does gathering together in intentional Christian fellowship help us grow, even as it causes us to be in relationships that can at times be messy, uncomfortable, or difficult?

### **Prayer Prompts**

- Pray for our church gatherings - - the large group worship times and the smaller group fellowship meetings of all types. Pray that we build one another up in love and unity.
- Pray for all those who are lonely, isolated, or not able to physically gather together with other Christians. Pray for those who are looking for a place to connect, grow, and serve.