

EQUIPPED TO FOLLOW

Follow in community Part 3: The grace of messy communities

[Leaders: Please prepare your group for the Passover evening and meal to be shared next week.]

OPEN IN PRAYER

Invite someone to open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to move and speak.

DISCUSSION

1. Based on the short video, how does God use challenging people and challenges in community to transform us?
2. Share as much as you're comfortable and is appropriate (in other words, no gossip, slander and venting), but how has God used challenging people in church to bring about better fruit in your life?
3. In the video Steve mentioned how the Corinthian church was so messed up where they were suing each other, getting drunk at the lord's table, they had spiritual gifts all twisted up, and they were tolerating sexual immorality. Knowing this, **read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**.
 - a. Now, let's do a brainstorming exercise where we expand the context of this passage. Go through every characteristic and add a challenging situation or challenging situations. For example: "Love is patient when others don't mature as quickly as I want them to ..." Or ... "Love is not easily angered even though we get let down by the same people time and time again."
4. In the very real situations we've just spoken about, how can we practically lean into and live out of love rather than our fleshly impulses?

PRAY

Pray for the Lord to grow us through the challenges of community as well as through some of the beautiful moments of community. *[Leaders: Please be sensitive to anyone who may need more focused ministry in this space of messed up church community.]*
