

# GET IT TOGETHER

## Finding Jesus in Each Other

### Week 3: A Spiritual Community

#### APPETIZER: Bible Trivia (Ned Flanders Style)

“the pillar and foundation of the truth”

How are your Growth Gauges?  
[www.themeetinghouse.com/growthgauges](http://www.themeetinghouse.com/growthgauges)

Are you moving toward Core Community?

- Baptism
- Giving
- Serving
- Home Church



#### DINE IN: The Way of Love VS The Way of Sin

Galatians 6:1-5

##### A Selective Church History of Doing Life Together...

1. THE WAY: 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians share possessions and meet in homes.
2. PARISHES: 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Christians organize into economic communities called parishes in order to take care of one another.
3. MONASTERIES: Inspired by “The Rule of Benedict”, 6<sup>th</sup> Century Christians develop communes of the committed called monasteries.
4. WALDENSIANS: 12<sup>th</sup> Century communal movement to embrace poverty and share possessions.
5. PROTESTANT REFORMATION: 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformers criticized the “monkish” life and encouraged personal hard work and industry as worship.
6. RADICAL REFORMATION: 16<sup>th</sup> Century Anabaptists return to communal living, meeting in homes and other non-traditional spaces.
7. HUTTERITES: Anabaptist family styled communes.
8. BRUDERHOF: Anabaptist intentional communities (communes) founded by Eberhard Arnold founded in the early twentieth century.
9. L'ARCHE: Jean Vanier founded these global communities of care.
10. ALTERNATE JESUS COMMUNITIES: JPUSA, Last Days Ministries, etc.

In order to be a truly Christian community, we must invest in one another by sharing our...

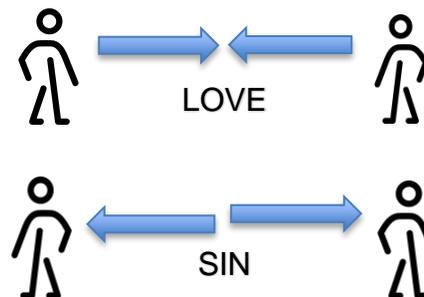
1. Time
2. Space
3. Possessions
4. Purpose

And let us consider [TIME] how we may spur one another on [SPACE/PROXIMITY] toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together [POSSESSIONS], as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another [PURPOSE].  
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

A community is only truly a body when the majority of its members is making the transition from “the community for myself” to “myself for the community”.  
~ Jean Vanier (Community and Growth)

**Love:** AGAPE, a force of unconditional energy moving us toward others to help them become the best version of themselves.

**Sin:** HAMARTIA, a force of separation always moving us away from God, others, and our true selves.



#### TAKE OUT: Help From Within



Left to our natural inclinations, we cannot realize true community. Even the smallest community between husband and wife, which arises out of love, only in the rarest cases shows itself to be a true, lasting spiritual community. Most married couples merely coexist.  
~ Eberhard Arnold (*Life's Task*, 1930)

John 14:15-21

#### Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Has anyone in your group worked through our new “Growth Gauges” spiritual self-assessment tool yet? If so, share your experience? If not, what’s holding you back?
2. In a couple of weeks we start our new “Origins” series about the first four chapters of the Bible. We’ll be talking about the origins of earth, us, ethics, evil, and religion. Do you have anyone in mind you might be inviting? What about this series might be interesting to non-Christians?

**HEAR** [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Galatians 5:13-6:5**. If time permits, read it more than once using a different translation.
  - a. What stands out to you from this passage?
  - b. The apostle Paul says we are free from the way of religious rules, laws, and the absolutes of tradition. And yet, we are not “free” to live sinful and selfish lives. Without law to keep us moral, what will help us live loving, ethically upright lives that serve others? Take your time and offer a few answers that are found in this passage. Talk about what these things might look like practically lived out.
  - c. In your own words, how would you respond to someone who says, “This passage has a contradiction. We are told to carry one another’s burdens, and then we are told to carry our own load. What gives?”

**HUDDLE** [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What has God been saying to you (encouraging or convicting you about) on this topic? Is there something you might change about your commitments considering this? What would that look like? Be specific. And pray for one another about this. Also consider talking about...
  - a. What “act of the flesh” distracts you most?
  - b. What “fruit of the spirit” seems most elusive for you?
  - c. On a scale of 1-10, this semester of home church how committed are you to carry others’ burdens with people at Home Church? How committed are you to share your own burdens to let them help you carry them?