

VOCABULARY OF FAITH

GOD OF BELONGING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

TEACHING PROPOSITION

Created and sustained by the Holy Spirit, Christian community is marked by embodied compassionate love that connects us to one another and God so that we are encouraged and accountable in the direction of our common lives of faithfulness.



Member of the Tribe

Ethnic, Cultural, Religious

Breakout Groups

- ▶ **Group 1: John 14:15-26.** From this passage, what can you glean about the characteristics of the Holy Spirit and what role will the Spirit have among Jesus' followers.
- ▶ **Group 2. Acts 2: 1-18.** What indication of the direction of the early Church under the Holy Spirit is signified by the speaking of foreign languages at Pentecost? It should be noted this is not the same thing as the speaking of tongues discussed in 1 Corinthians 14 “For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit. (v2)

Breakout Groups



- ▶ **Group 3 Acts 11:1-18.** What is the significance of Peter's vision? How does this vision play into verses 17 & 18?
- ▶ **Group 4 Galatians 5:14-25 & 6:7-8.** Drawing from these verses, discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian Community's life.

Koinonia



- ▶ **The New Testament depicts the Christian community as a space of koinonia (coin-a-knee-a),** an embodied collaboration of God and the followers of Jesus for the inbreaking of the reign of Christ in the common life of the faithful.
- ▶ **Koinonia is the New Testament term that denotes fellowship, connection, spiritual accompaniment with God and neighbor.**
- ▶ **Koinonia connects us to God and each other:** “We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3)

Koinonia



- ▶ **Koinonia is the sharing that we experience at the Lord's Table.**
This is a mysterious and miraculous sharing of table with the communion of saints across time and space: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16
- ▶ **Koinonia attends to the common needs of people** for spiritual support, interpersonal connection and tangible care, needs that all people share as they develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Breakout Groups: Reflecting on Video

1) In contrast to Jewish concept of “Member of the Tribe,” how does one become a member of the Christian community?

2) How does being a member of the Christian community affect one’s life?

When we come back we are going to ask each group, based on their discussion, to give several endings for the sentence “The Christian Community is....”

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133



Let us pray in the Spirit which empowers and enlivens, corrects and connects us. Thank you for those faithful people who have pour your love out upon us.

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Help us to support each other as we listen to Holy Spirit's direction as a faith community.

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133



*Through our mouths, let there be encouragement in Christ
and consolation from love.*

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Through our hands, let there be a sharing in the Spirit

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133



Through our feet, let us move with empathy and concern.

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Through our minds, let us discern joy and love.

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133

From our fingers, let us release selfishness and conceit

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

*Through our lungs, let us breathe out humility and the
appreciation of others and self.*

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 133



As the Body of Christ, let us compassionately love and be loved by God and neighbor.

**How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
Glory be to God. Amen.**