Life Is Better Together!

Key idea:

The Church is called to be a community that worships together, shares life together, and is on mission together.

Key text:

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Key points:

- 1. The church is a community that regularly gathers together for public worship of God, including teaching the Word, praying, coming to the Lord's Table, and experiencing fellowship with one another.
- 2. The church is a community that shares life together, including both times of fellowship and caring for one another's spiritual and physical needs.
- 3. The church is a community that is propelled into mission together, serving and reaching the world, from its city to the end of the world.

Questions for discussion/application:

- 1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
- 2. Why does Luke include the summary of church life found in Acts 2:42-47? What does it teach me about the nature of life in the early church?

- 3. What are each of the aspects of the public worship of the church listed in Acts 2:42 (teaching of the Word, fellowship, prayer, and the Lord's Table) important for the life of each believer? For the life of the church?
- 4. Is it possible for me to be a healthy Christian fulfilling God's call apart from vital involvement in a local church community? Why or why not?
- 5. What happens to my sense of community with other believers in BRCC if I am not regular in attending worship gatherings? Why?
- 6. Why does a blessed, healthy Christian life include not only gathering with other believers for worship but actually sharing life and serving one another outside of the worship gathering?
- 7. Why must a healthy church be involved in reaching the world? Why must the blessing God gives us be passed on to others for us to continue to experience blessing?
- 8. How does the doctrine of the Trinity teach me about the importance of community? What about the incarnation (Christ taking flesh and becoming fully human)? How do the realities of the Trinity and the Incarnation shape a proper understanding of the Church and the Christian life?
- 9. When I consider the three major aspects of community in this text regularly gathering for public worship; sharing life together; and being on mission together which do I need to grow in the most? How do I plan to grow in this area in the coming months?
- 10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?

Further Resources:

The <u>BRCC Connect group page</u> gives information about the various connect groups in BRCC.