

Discussion Guide: Community

Big idea: The church is the Kingdom people of God formed by the Gospel of God for the purposes of God. Commit to being God's Kingdom people.

- 1) Wrestle with the introductory statements. Do you understand them? Do you agree or disagree? Discuss.
 - "The gospel is the good news concerning the kingdom, and the kingdom is God's rule over the totality of life." [René Padilla, *Mission Between the Times*, 198]
 - "The church is the Kingdom people of God formed by the Gospel of God for the purposes of God." [Me again]
 - The church ≠ the Kingdom but it is a preview, an outpost, and an instrument of it.
- 2) In what ways does our cultural "wiring" get in the way or inhibit our experience of Kingdom community? E.g., *individualism, isolation* (from busyness and lifestyle), *consumerism, nationalism*. Discuss.
- 3) Discuss 1 Peter as covered in church (maybe read or re-read the whole letter for context).
 - What does it mean to be nourished on the Word?
 - What hindrances does 1 Peter talk about that get in the way of being nourished?
 - What does it mean to be God's temple and his temple priests? What's involved?
 - What does it mean to be foreigners and exiles wherever we live? What should it feel like? How should we conduct ourselves?
 - What does it mean for us to "be of one mind"? Are we? Why or why not? What should we do about this?
 - In the midst of trials and suffering (a.k.a. everyday life), what does it mean to "set apart Christ as Lord"?
 - Why do you think more folks don't question us about our faith?
 - What would it look like for you to do (or put into practice) 1 Pet 4:7-11?
- 4) What do you believe God wants you (or your Life Group) to do in response to God's word from 1 Peter?