



## Back to Church • Supporting • Week 2

### ICEBREAKER

What is your favorite yard game and have you ever won anything by playing it?

### KEY SCRIPTURE

**Acts 4:31-35**

**Philippians 2:3-4**

**John 13:34**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the message, Pastor Marcus said, “When we talk about getting back to church, it will be easy for some of us to miss the point. We think- yes, finally, I get to go back to church after this pandemic. I get to sit in my favorite seat and listen and maybe even sing. While the doors to our buildings may be opening, don’t miss the deeper call to action. We are in desperate need for Christ’s Church, that is you and I, to get back to doing what we are called to do. Love and care for all of God’s children for the Glory of God and restoration of hope in this broken world.” Discuss this. How can each of us better respond to the deeper call of God to love and care for people and not slip back into simply comfortably attending church?
2. Read Acts 4:31-35. Imagine that the members of this first church time-traveled to us in 2020. What do you think they would recognize in the way we do church in our place and time? What would seem very foreign or odd to them about how we do church?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-4. What would it look like for Christians to live this out in our communities? What kind of changes do you think it would make?
4. Regarding that same passage, Pastor Marcus said, “Because Christ is on my mind and my heart is for His mission, I can look to their interests above my own. I am humble enough to be empathetic. I can care for them the way the early church did when I don’t see our differences as barriers but as bridges being built together from both sides only to meet in the middle.” Given how polarized our country is right now, do you believe that this is possible? What will make it possible?
5. Why is it important for us as a church to practice unity by loving those with differences in our own church body? Is this something that requires practice?

### PRAYER

Pray for any specific requests, and pray together for us as a church to live out the love and humility of Christ with each other and in our communities so that we can be part of the healing and restoration in our land.

### CHALLENGE

Read Luke 10:25-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Note that the priest and the Levite likely had some valid reasons for avoiding the injured man—they had purity laws to obey, and religious roles to consider. But in doing what they thought was good, they missed doing what was God’s best. Prayerfully reflect on the meaning of this parable for your own life.