

COMMUNITY

Definition: a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common. The Church is the community God uses to accomplish His purposes in our world. As the Church we should worship God, nurture each other, and make God known to those who are without His redeeming love.

Pray:

Triune God,
Teach us to live and love well in community with each other. Let us be givers and receivers of love, givers and receivers of mercy, givers and receivers of grace. Open our hearts and minds to the work you have for us to accomplish in our community.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, John 13:34-35, Philippians 2:1-5

Activity: Take a moment to look at the drawing on the table and ask God to help you see what he might reveal to you through this image. Where are you in this picture? Do you feel like one of these ladies today? Do you want to put your hand up with theirs? What's the backstory? Do you find yourself judging them? What if I tell you this is two sides of the same person?

The Church community is not perfect, but it works and moves humbly forward when we are:

- 1. Accepting of ourselves and others.** Not because we understand, or approve, but because God accepts us. **Is there someone you need to accept?** *Pray.*
- 2. Forgiving.** We all hurt each other. Even Jesus was hurt and rejected. We forgive because he forgives. **Is there someone you need to forgive?** *Pray.*
- 3. Authentic.** We continue to act on what we think God is teaching us, and who He wants us to be. We don't pretend we have it all together. **What keeps you from being your real self?** *Pray.*
- 4. Aware that disappointment is a fact of life.** We will be disappointed by others and they will be disappointed by us. **Is there a disappointment you need to release?** *Pray.*
- 5. Loving.** Love is given and received freely, but it's not a push-over. Love says stop sinning without condemnation. **Do you allow yourself to love and be loved?** *Pray.*