

TANGIBLE KINGDOM: WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY?

In the community of Faith, which is supposed to be incarnational, each of us have the decision everyday to be the “tangible kingdom” or in old language the body of Christ.

The questions we face in making this decision are: Do we “love deeply?” Do we let our love cover a multitude of sins? Do we do it without grumbling? Do we use our strengths for each other in spite of our weaknesses? We ask these questions to fulfill the prayer “Lord, let them see thee in me.”

“Community is a word with many meanings and contexts. It’s an ideal, a hope, and a need. It’s the foundation of any group or church and requires people to interact, share, and participate in a common effort. It’s similar to a team sport that requires individuals to prioritize the involvement of others in order to succeed. Community cannot be created in isolation, nor does it happen without action. It requires people to navigate the tensions of interpersonal relationships.” (“The Tangible Kingdom Primer,” page 76)

Opening Prayer: Read 1 Peter 4:8-10 and pause for prayer.

Scripture Reading: Romans 12:9-13; Colossians 3:12-15; Acts 2:44-47

Scripture Reading Discussion Questions

- A “tangible kingdom” focuses on hospitality, inclusiveness, forgiveness and involvement with each other. In Romans 12:9-13, Paul echoes this and tells us to let love be genuine. How does Paul say to show our love?
- Colossians shows how to behave as we let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and participate in the creation of Christian community. What are the characteristics of Christian community?

Application: What does this message mean to me?

- “Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” In what ways are you sharing your gift(s) with others?
- Thankfulness, joyfully surrendering to God, is a consistent theme in today’s lesson. Recall a time when you experienced thankfulness by reaching out to establish a relationship with others.
- Community cannot be created in isolation or without action. Yet its’ benefits are rich. Imagine that you are in conversation with Jesus; what would he say to you about the “tangible kingdom.”

Closing Prayer: Lord, teach me to use my gifts to live the qualities of a Christian life and become transformed and thankful for the community in which we are one in your love.