

THE CREED

INTRO

Who is the most unusual or interesting people you have ever met?

Name a hobby you liked to do growing up

READ

Acts 2:43b-47 The Message

“I believe in the holy catholic church”

Qu: Why does it seem harder to say I believe in the church than to say I believe in God?

REFLECT

The church is people

Read Acts 13:1-3

“These five men, therefore, symbolized the ethnic and cultural diversity of Antioch.” They represented 3 continents and 4 different ethnic groups.

Qu: What is it about the church that can bring together people from diverse backgrounds into close relationship?

The church is people who are flawed

Read Acts 6:1 & Galatians 2:11-13

Sometimes we get the idea that the early church as described in the book of Acts was perfect.

Qu: What were the issues in these two accounts that caused relational tensions?

“Genuine communities may experience lovely and sometimes lengthy periods free from conflict. But that is because they have learned how to deal with conflict rather than avoid it. Pseudo-community is conflict-avoiding; true community is conflict-resolving.” – Dr. Scott Peck

Pt 9: THE CHURCH

Qu: What do we need to do in order to go from pseudo-community to real community?

The Church is people who are flawed that Jesus loves

Read Rev 19:7, Matt 16:18 & Luke 5:5-11

Jesus loves his bride, has promised to build his church and gave her the mission to advance the kingdom of God on earth. He has no plan B.

Jesus used the fishing metaphor – pulling people out of the chaos and darkness of the sea into the light – to describe the mission of the church.

Qu: Why is the church so vital to the kingdom?

RESPOND

The Church is people who are flawed that Jesus loves and needs

The church will never be any better than the people involved and how they contribute.

Qu: Is there something you are withholding that could make our church better? Deeper relationships, finances, service, or spiritual gifts?

PRAY

Qu: What are some answers to prayer?

FAMILY (core value #5)

Because the family is the foundation and validation of ministry, we refuse to sacrifice our marriages and our children on the altars of temporal success. And because we believe God has called us to be a spiritual family, we embrace community, reject the idea of disposable relationships, and choose to walk in love, respect, and unity. – Every Nation website