



SERMON DISCUSSION SHEET

WELCOME

- **New Groups:** Please take time for introductions and welcoming. How long have folks attended CCC? Is this their first community group?
- **Continuing Groups:** Take time to check in and offer updates from the week.
- Encourage everyone to share a highlight or lowlight from their week as well as any prayer requests.

CONNECT & GROW

- **Each week, questions will be provided to help individuals and groups connect with the sermon and grow deeper in faith. The following questions, prompts and discussion points are meant to help guide both personal devotion and small group conversation. Be open and flexible to additional questions.**
- What stood out to you from the message this week?
- Tribes over time show us how to belong. Some tribes we choose. Others are chosen for us. What is a significant community or group that you belonged to in the past? What were some of the things that made that community a good/hard place for you?
- Discuss tribes and loneliness. What does it mean to be lonely? Can you feel lonely and still be part of a tribe? What are some ways a "tribe" can fight against loneliness?
- Why do people join tribes? Are there sub-tribes within a large tribe? What are some of the barriers we tend to face that prevent us from participating in meaningful spiritual community? Have you been disappointed by Christian community in the past? If so, how have those previous disappointments prevented you from experiencing authentic spiritual community?
- Discuss individualism versus group identity. How does it change depending on the tribe and/or where the tribe resides? For example, in "cold-cultures" (like the US), children are taught, "You are an individual. Learn to think for yourself." In "hot-cultures" (think warmer climate countries), the opposite is true. Children are taught, "You belong. You belong to a family, to a tribe, to a village. We all take care of each other. Your actions reflect the whole group." Do you have experience with this? How did your family of origin operate? How does your household operate today? What are the pros and cons to these two worldviews? (Pastor Lyndsey Book Recommendation - For more on this topic and other cultural differences, check out *Foreign to Familiar* by Sarah A. Lanier.)

Refer to the back of this sheet for prompts to use throughout the week during chair time.

CHAIR TIME & PERSONAL PROMPTS

GO

The following questions and prompts are meant to be answered individually, throughout the week during "chair time" or times of personal reflection.

- Who is your tribe? Are these people connected to one another?
- In the Old Testament, we learn about God's work and presence within the 12 tribes of Israel. (Bible Trivia: Can you name them? See Genesis 49:1-28) What do we know about them? How were they the same or different? What was the purpose of dividing the people into tribes? Does God still work through tribes? In the US? Throughout the rest of the world? Can you give examples?
- Read Acts 2:42-43. What are the things that Jesus' disciples committed themselves to that caused them to grow closer to Jesus and to one another? Do you have any friends like the ones in Acts 2, who you can pray with and learn more about God with?
- What is the importance of community? Read the following statements and look up the Bible reference provided for each. Circle words within the Bible passages that stand out to you. Do them all at once or one each day.

Community challenges you to be more like Jesus (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Community meets practical needs (Acts 2:42-47).

Community carries you emotionally (Galatians 6:2).

Community reveals your gifts and talents (Eccl 4:9-12).

Community opens your eyes to the needs of others (1 Thes 5:14).

Community empowers your relationship with God (Prov 27:17).

Community helps meet your need for love (Prov 17:17).

Community offers opportunities for confession, which leads to healing (James 5:16).

Community teaches you to work through conflicts (1 Co 1:10).

Community gives you the chance to forgive (1 Peter 4:8-11).

Save the date(s): October 14 and October 21. Join us for after church for lunch and learning more about our church, denomination and what it means to attend and/or become a member at Cascade Covenant. Already a member? We'd still love for you to attend.

Parents! Think about the following questions taken from the Phases book series:

- List at least five adults who have the potential to positively influence your child. (Examples: Parents, Neighbors, Church Leaders, Nursery Workers, Parent's Friends, Friends' Parents, Coaches, Grown Siblings, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles, Teachers, Babysitters, School Workers, Club Leaders, YouTube & Cultural Icons, Community Leaders, Boss or Co-Workers, Tutors)
- What would be good information for these people to know if they want to help or support your child this year?
- What is one thing these adults could do for your child this year?
- What are a few ways you could show these adults appreciation for the significant role they play in your kid's life?
- Parents with high school seniors: Relationships provide support through transitional times. How can you include these adults in celebrating your senior at the end of the year? How could you encourage these adults to stay connected with your senior throughout the year?