

Created for Community
Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, June 13th 2021



Sermon Title: Created for Community

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5; Hebrews 10:23-25

Sermon Focus: Hyper-individualism in America is a threat to New Testament church life. Why is that? It's because we were created for community by a communal God. And the only way to live into God's eternal purpose for the church is to be intentional in gathering as a community of disciples and sharing life together. Listen as Pastor David shares why it's important that we not give up meeting regularly with the church.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by listing many reasons for the decline in church attendance today. Which of these do you see most frequently:
 1. increasing secularization
 2. anti-institutionalism (distrust in institutions)
 3. competing idols and liturgies (e.g., sports, hobbies, driven by civic calendar, etc.)
 4. our crazy-busy, fast-paced lives – little to no time for the church
 5. partisan politics, identity politics, and political polarization
 6. moral failures of high-profile church leaders
 7. cynicism, lack of trust, and a suspicion of others
 8. consumerism (the church is for meeting my wants and expectations)
 9. the church's failure to properly orient us to God and make disciples
 10. American individualism
2. We were created for community. However, not everyone goes about that in the way God desires. Consider the ways we group ourselves together for the sake of identity, purpose, and meaning: tribalism, nationalism, race & ethnicities, identity politics, cultures & customs, socio-economic status, affinities, etc. Why are these insufficient and ultimately in opposition to God's will for humanity? How do you see these divisions reflected in the church today?
3. Imagine if the church lived into God's eternal purpose of being a "fellowship of different" (different genders, generations, ethnicities, cultures, perspectives, etc.) all united in Christ and his gospel. This can *only* be a work of the Spirit! Can you see God's wisdom and power in how he chose the church to do this? How do you see us pursuing this grand vision at Grantham Church?
4. Pastor David mentioned that there are 100 "one another's" in the New Testament (e.g., love one another, do not judge one another, show hospitality to one another, forgive one another, etc.). We can easily see how American hyper-individualism is a threat to being the church and sharing life with other disciples in community. How do you feel God is calling you to resist the cultural forces that scatter us and move more toward "one anothering" in the church?
5. Since participation in the local church is God's way of changing us and the world around us, how might *you* need to (re)direct your time, talents, and treasure to support the mission and vision of Grantham Church moving forward? How do you sense God is calling you to engage with our congregation in the future?