

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Side by Side

**Week 1: Called to Community**  
**Acts 1:13-16**

**Week of January 9, 2022**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

Have you ever noticed your heart come alive when you're with a group of good friends? God made us this way. He made us to live connected in life-giving relationships. In this new series from the book of Acts, we discover how the church can provide the relationships that will help us thrive.

### **Kicking it off:**

If you were to win an award for something in your current season of life, which song would you pick for your "Walk-up Music" to honor your accomplishment?

### **Discussion:**

1. When you hear the word "community" ... what comes to mind for you? Is it generally a positive or negative word to you? How would you feel about doing life with the same group of people for four decades?
2. Let's set the stage for what was happening in the beginning of Acts. Read Acts 1:3. How long did Jesus remain on earth after His crucifixion? What happened during that time? Why do you think Jesus had to prove He was alive?

*"After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." (NIV)*

3. Read Acts 1:14-15. What are some possible benefits to having so much diversity as a group of 120 believers? What are some potential challenges?

*"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ..." (NIV)*

4. Jeff described the Greek word for "joined together" —**homothumadon** from the root words of **homo** = same & **thumos** = passion. On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with the amount of *homothumadon* ("joined together passion") for community in your life right now?
5. What experiences in your life have been the most influential in making you aware of a desire for community? How can your current small or medium-size group best help you stay in community with other believers?

### **Wrapping It Up:**

Read Galatians 6:2. Then spend some time praying for your group to continue to be faithful in meeting together and helping to carry each other's burdens.

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NIV)*