



Worship – Reach – **Connect** – Grow – Serve

SLE Church 2023

Recap/Objectives

Opening Discussion:

1. What would you say to someone who believes that it's not necessary to go to church in order to be a Christian?
2. What has been your experience of church life? In the times it hasn't been good, where do you think it went wrong? If your experience has generally been good, what would you point to as to why it was good?

Bible Readings: Ephesians 4:1-6; Hebrews 10:24-25

Talk – Part 1

Introduction

1. *The Importance of Community (Eph 4:1-3)*

2. *The Motivation for Community (Eph 4:4-6)*

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you been encouraged to see the importance of being part of a church community?

2. How have you seen evidence of the five characteristics Paul mentions (in your own life and in those you've seen at church here at SLE Church or in a previous church)
 - a. Humility
 - b. Gentleness
 - c. Patience
 - d. Love
 - e. Unity

Talk – Part 2

3. *Community, SLE Church, and You*

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some challenges to prioritising fellowship? What are some solutions or ways we can overcome those challenges together?
2. In what ways can you be connected into SLE Church's community life?
3. In what ways can you help grow SLE Church's community life?

Q&A

Ponder (in your own time):

""The Christian needs other Christians who speak to him the Word of God, he needs them again and again, when he becomes uncertain and fails because from himself he cannot find help without cheating himself of the truth. He needs his brother as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs the brother solely for the sake of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the Word of his brother. One is uncertain, the other is certain. The goal of Christian community is to encounter each other as bringers of the message of salvation."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 'Life Together'.

Suggested resource list:

- How to Walk Into Church – Tony Payne
- The Book Your Pastor Wishes You Would Read (But is too Embarrassed to Ask) – Christopher Ash
- The Loveliest Place – Dustin Bengé