

## **We Are Better Together**

### **Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one of your longest friendships?
2. What is your ideal way to spend your birthday?

**Read the following passage:** Acts 2:42-47.

One of the defining characteristics of the early church was the profound sense of community experienced by the believers. Luke says that the believers were “devoted to... fellowship,” that they were “together and had everything in common,” that they met “together in the temple courts” every day, and that “they broke bread in their homes and ate together.” We were made for community! Even so, we often have to fight to stay connected in meaningful relationships. In our cultural context, real community rarely happens on accident.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What are some of the benefits of being in healthy community? What do you most look forward to as more things in our region open up?
2. Read Acts 5:1-5. Ananias, it appears, was more interested in looking generous than being generous. What are some of the reasons we might be tempted to project a false self to the people around us? How can the cross help us address this false self?
3. Read Genesis 4:3-9. Why did Cain kill Abel? Was it because of something Abel had done? How might our own failures and weaknesses affect our relationships with others?
4. Read Acts 6:1. Why do you think the widows who were Hellenistic Jewish believers (that is, who spoke Greek as a first language and had more exposure to the broader Greco-Roman culture) were being overlooked? Are there groups of people the needs of which you are more prone to overlook? Explain.
5. Read Acts 11:1-3. Why were the believers in Jerusalem criticizing Peter? What was wrong with their judgment? What can we do to counteract our tendency to make hasty, and often inaccurate, judgments of other people or situations?
6. What is one way you can be a part of building healthy community?

**Pray**