

In your small group talk about these two questions:

- a. Describe someone who was influential in your early faith walk.
- b. Describe a faith community that blessed you. Make sure you explain why.

Once you have finished the sharing, turn on the video

A pondering about community....

1. The word "community" is divided into a prefix and a root word. The prefix is _____ and means _____.

The root word is _____. So, the meaning of community is _____.

God's intention is that His followers live in community and that they have unity.

Jesus said it this way, **"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be _____, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the _____ may believe that you have sent me."**

And John 17:23, **"May they be brought to complete _____ to let the _____ know that you sent me and have loved them..."**

2. My desire in this study is that we explore our unity as we walk through the messiness of this young church in Corinth. Jesus says clearly, our unity impacts how the world sees Jesus.

In your small group, how have you seen unity in the congregation? Disunity?

Setting the stage of Corinth and community.....

1. Paul came to Corinth around _____.
2. Check out the cute map. Corinth was a large Roman city with _____ free people and _____ slaves.
3. Besides major shipping and trade coming through the city, Corinth was well known for The worship of the goddess _____. This was a fertility cult with over 1000 male and female prostitutes.
4. The city was known for its immorality. To come from Corinth was an insult because of the extreme disgusting behavior.
5. The result is that the congregation was filled with former prostitutes, criminals, and a community that lacked a moral _____.
6. The strength of studying I Corinthians is that the congregation was such a mess that Paul has to address the _____ of being in a Christian community.
7. For us, their mess allows us to explore who we are as a Christian community.

Next Meeting:

Please read **I Corinthians 1-2**.

I want you to look around you and see how people live in community. I'd like you share what you observe at the next meeting. This can be any group of people.