

## Study 10. We love other Christians (practice of fellowship)

Big idea: inclusion in Christ and membership of the church are two sides of the same coin

What is the weirdest club you've ever joined (or thought about joining)?

Tailor this question to the demographic of the group – e.g. if it's a group of undergraduates you could talk about what O-Week clubs they joined this year at uni.

What would happen if we didn't do church (ever)?

### Observation and interpretation

Read John 13:34.

- Who is the "one another" that Jesus is talking about here?
- Can you think of some examples of what Jesus might mean by "love one another"?

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

- What is the "body" that Paul is talking about in verse 4?
- Why is it that there is only one church? What makes it unified?
- What is the "unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"?
- If the unity of the church is something that God has ensured, why does Paul tell us to maintain the "unity of the Spirit"?
- It's all very well of Paul to say that the church is one, but what are we to make of all the divisions which exist between churches and denominations?

Read Ephesians 4:7-16

- Why has God given different people in the church different jobs to do? What are they all for?
- According to this passage, what is the aim of the church?

Go back and read Ephesians 3:20-21. What makes this amazing vision of life together possible?

Divide the following passages among the group. What do they tell us about the point of meeting together as a church each week?

- Hebrews 10:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 14:24-33

### Implications

Is it possible to be a Christian and yet not meet regularly with the church?

What are some of the pros and cons of these types of church gatherings:

- Large Sunday church service with singing, teaching and fellowship
- Small home group at someone's home
- Church services which appeal to certain narrow demographics (young urban professionals, families, artists, second generation migrants, etc)?
- Spontaneous catch ups with Christian friends over coffee, sometimes with Bible and prayer but not always

How should you decide which church to join? Does it matter?

What would be good reasons to join a church? What would be bad reasons?

### **Prayer ideas**

Pray for your church. (You might particularly pray for your leaders - they need it!)