

Aftermath

A Vision for Community (January 10th, 2021)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our Special Series Video!**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to remind us of the victory we have over sin in Jesus Christ! Finally, pray that as we look toward the horizon of a New Year that the Holy Spirit would search our hearts and continue to transform us into the likeness of His son!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into our new sermon series titled *Aftermath*. Pastor Danny brings our attention to *Ephesians 4:1-16* in order to talk about what it looks like to be a healthy church community. In this passage, Paul suggests that God's calling has to do with how we relate to one another. Pastor Danny challenges us to step into life-giving, Christ-centered community because God wants to transform our community through each one of us. However, the only way we reach maturity is to come together and hold each other up as one body!

“What is the story that you want to see God write in your faith in 2021?” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Icebreaker – What is one New Year’s resolution that you have made with yourself?

****NEW** Series Video:** Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses Pastor Danny’s sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



Objective #1: Identify your vision and desire for life-giving Christian community in 2021.

Primary Texts: Ephesians 4:1-16 – Pastor Danny’s sermon discusses God’s calling upon the Ephesians. He mentions how Paul could have easily spoken about how he wants the Ephesians to keep believing in Jesus or maintain their course on the global mission. However, Paul distinctly uses his time in prison to talk about the importance of beautiful, dynamic, and unified relationships with other believers in the local church! **As Pastor Danny spoke about the markers of a healthy church community, what are some of the areas that you are excited to grow in over the year 2021 as you participate with 3Crosses?**

Objective #2: Identify specific hurdles that keep you from engaging in Christian Community!

Primary Texts: Isaiah 11:1-11; Luke 10:40-41; John 13:1-17; Matthew 11:28-30 – In the roundtable discussion video, each of our ministry leaders spoke about different obstacles that we may face toward becoming a healthy community! **When you think about your role in participating inside of a healthy church community, what are some of the obstacles that you foresee? Which example of Jesus do you need to lean into to address those obstacles?**

Objective #3: Commit to one next step that you can take toward engaging in Community this year!

Primary Texts: Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:19-25 – Finally, Pastor Danny challenges us to remember that God wants to transform our community through YOU! However, he also reminds us that this is done through relationships with other believers! **Based on the importance of community in these two texts, what next step is God calling you to take in order to engage more deeply into life giving, Christ-centered community this year?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son at the perfect time! Praise the Son for emptying himself by becoming a human in a humble manger so that he might give up his own life so that we could be free from the bondage of our spiritual enemy! Ask that the Holy Spirit would mold our hearts and continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we celebrate his coming and share time with our friends, family, and loved ones.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Further Reading: For this week's study, one way you can dive deeper into the material is by taking a look at the entire book of [Ephesians](#)! When you read this book, remember that Paul is very familiar with this church (see Acts 18:19 - 20:38) and is writing to them from prison (Eph. 3:1). As Paul reveals his most pressing prayer requests for the church in his opening remarks, pay attention to some of the key words that Paul uses and try and follow them throughout the letter! Finally, remember that Ephesians is believed to be a letter that would be easily circulated throughout the region. Therefore, it is safe to ask yourself how the concepts of Ephesians can be applied to 3Crosses Church today!

-Aftermath Series: Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our YouTube channel!

-Prayer: This week, pray that your group would continue to become more connected and vibrant in your relationships inside and outside of the group meeting. If you haven't created a rhythm of checking in with one another throughout the week, try organizing a check-in system where you are assigned one person to pray for throughout the week!

-Community Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org