

Building Community

Mark 1:16-20

The Christian faith is necessarily a journey in _____ with others because that is the only way our founder (Jesus) ever presented it. Christian orthodoxy does not contemplate any other model.

Discussion 1. What have you found helpful in order to have some sense of community even in the midst of a pandemic? What are some ways our general culture makes building community more difficult? What are some ways our culture actually helps build community?

Following Christ certainly requires that we rearrange our priorities, even our very identities. But it does not necessarily require that we lose or even forget those identities; they are _____ to _____ in our ministry assignments.

Discussion 2. Is there an identity of yours (family, occupation, ethnicity, nationality, political ideology, etc.) which you believe God has used in your ministry assignments?

As we follow Christ, God begins to build community around us; sometimes they are long term friendships and sometimes for a season. But always, God's _____ in bringing friends in and out of our lives is perfect.

Discussion 3. Share an example from your own life (or from someone close to you) of God bringing a friendship or relationship into your life at exactly the right time? Why is it sometimes hard for us to accept God's timing of friendships coming in or out of our lives?

An all-knowing, all-loving God can be trusted with the _____ He brings in and out of our lives. We, on the other hand...not so much.

Discussion 4. How do you discern whether a particular potential friendship is one God has brought into your life or not? What are some factors you would consider? Has God ever surprised you by bringing a friendship into your life OR by taking one out of your life?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?