

It Can Be Messy

Connect Group Guide - 8.10.25

Key Takeaways:

1. The church is beautiful but can be messy because it's made up of imperfect people.
2. Despite its messiness, the church is still God's chosen vessel on earth.
3. Diversity in the church can lead to both beauty and challenges.
4. We are all in the process of being shaped in God's image.
5. Regular church attendance and involvement are crucial for spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Mike mentioned that the church can be messy because it's made up of people. How have you experienced or observed this in your own church experiences?
2. How does understanding that we're all "works in progress" change your perspective on church conflicts or disappointments?
3. The message emphasized the importance of diversity in the church. How have you seen diversity enrich your church community? What challenges has it presented?
4. Pastor Mike stated, "You need the church more than we need you." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
5. How has being part of a church community contributed to your spiritual growth? Can you share a specific example?
6. Pastor Mike mentioned church hopping as an epidemic. What are your thoughts on this? How can we balance discernment about where God is calling us with commitment to a local church?
7. Reflect on the question posed at the end: "If you treated your spouse the way you treat Jesus' bride (the church), how would your marriage be?" What insights does this give you?

Practical Applications:

1. Commit to praying for your church and its leaders daily for the next week.
2. Identify one area where you can serve or get more involved in your church community.
3. If you're not already part of a connect group, make plans to join one or visit one in the coming weeks.
4. Set aside time this week to study a passage of Scripture related to the church (e.g., Ephesians 4:1-16, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
5. Reach out to someone in your church you don't know well and invite them for coffee or a meal to build community.
6. Reflect on your attitude towards church attendance. If needed, make a commitment to prioritize regular attendance.
7. Think of one way you can contribute to making your church a more welcoming and loving place for newcomers or those on the fringes.