



SIGNS OF LIFE

About the Series

In this brief eight week series, Pastor Bryan will explore different topics that display to us what life from God looks like. The good news is that although sin and death are all around us, God has not abandoned us nor this world to be conquered by them. In his great love, he has intervened and initiated a new work by establishing a better Kingdom. The true King has come and placed these signs of life for us to see! In the next eight weeks, we will study the following topics:

- 12/23 **Incarnation** (God became one of us)
- 12/30 **Transformation** (God changes us)
- 1/6 **Community** (God welcomes us)
- 1/13 **Worship** (God is enjoyed by us)
- 1/20 **Love** (God loves through us)
- 1/27 **Generosity** (God gives through us)
- 2/3 **Reconciliation** (God makes peace through us)
- 2/10 **Mission** (God reaches the lost through us)

This Week: Community (God welcomes us)

Christianity can be viewed as a loving community/family (the Trinity) reaching out to redeem and restore a community/family (the world) that is filled with sin and brokenness. Jesus not only rescues those from Adam's fallen family (1Cor. 15:45-50) but he also graciously invites them into his family (Jn 17:22-24). Christianity is not to be lived privately or individually but rather in community. Yet, in our highly independent culture, our temptation is to isolate ourselves and avoid transparent relationships. The Bible is clear in communicating that when God saves us He also brings us into a new community--The Church.

At Calvary SLO we want to live out the mission of God to lovingly serve one another and grow in the Gospel. The conduit for this gospel transformation and how we counter anonymity is through committed community groups. These small groups seek to do life together and embody what we see in Acts 2:42. Community groups offer a practical way of developing disciples that leave a lasting impact for the kingdom of God. One author

pointed out that throughout history when there had been revival, there had also been a recovery of the "people of God being the people of God." It's through a reawakening of who we are in Christ that God's redeemed family (the Church) arises to put God's beauty and love on full display for a lost world to see.

Read Acts 2:42-47

They (the Church) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Application: Answer the below questions:

- According to Acts 2:42-47, what are some of the significant characteristics of biblical community?
- Does living in biblical community and being transparent with others make you feel uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- How do you believe God has gifted you to build others up in their faith? Because this may be difficult for you to personally assess, ask those in your community group/family what gifts they see in your life that encourage and build others up.

Prayer

- Give thanks to God for his kind act of extending love, grace and acceptance to you, by welcoming you into his family.
- As a Community Group/family ask God to show you who he would want you to extend loving hospitality and acceptance to.

Community Group Discussion

- Read scripture together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking the questions & taking the time to share/respond.
- Pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have a child/adult read the passage aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests, invite them to pray & sing a worship song together.