

TAKEAWAY

HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS



Part Five: Community

At Maybridge we want to be a church of disciples who make disciples – we hope this takeaway session encourages practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in your group. The focus of group discussion should be on becoming 'doers of the word' and not just hearers or people who enjoy a good discussion!

As always, there are more questions and discussion prompts than you'll have time for, so feel free to use what is helpful for your group as time allows and discussion flows.

INTRODUCTION

Over this series, we're thinking practically about what following and building our habits around Jesus looks like in community across a few different key areas of life. In this session, we unpack what christian community should look like. It's an inescapable reality that if you want to grow spiritually, you need others. What are some of the practical values and traits that characterise christian relationships in a Healthy Household – in a church family.

SHARE

- How did you get on with 'try outs' from last week? Share how you got on in the week as we sought to grow in gratitude?
- How would you describe church in one word?
- Share about a time when you felt a strong sense of belonging in a particular group or community. What made that experience memorable for you?
- Have you experienced church as *family*? In what ways?

READ

Romans 12

DISCUSS

Paul has shared the gospel in great detail in the chapters before; mainly that we are saved by grace, through faith in Christ Jesus. He switches gears here in one word: *'Therefore'* and turns to the practical implications of what has gone before and explains how we should live. What do you think Paul means by the way he describes our response to God's mercy (verses 1-2)?

Paul describes believers as individual members that form one body and gives examples of gifts given to members of the church. What does this have to say about how we should use our gifts?

Are you aware of your spiritual gifts, strengths and weaknesses? How does this passage change or challenge the way you serve and use them for the church community?

Paul shares several essential characteristics of christian community throughout this passage. Which of the values, characteristics and aspects of shared life expressed in this passage stand out to you? How do they change the way you view church relationships? What compromises and commitments do you think it asks of you?

Paul instructs believers: *'Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.'* (Verse 9). What do you think sincere love looks like? What does it mean to *'Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.'* in our relationships with other believers?

Becky Manley Pippert, an American evangelist and author writes: *'Real love stands against the deception, the lie, the sin that destroys'*. Do the depth of your relationships with others in the church

family allow for healthy and loving challenge? What are the barriers? How can you go about encouraging intentional relationships with others within the church?

Paul shares how we are able to live out this call to genuine love in verse one: *'in view of God's mercy'* How does this affect how we are to view and approach unlovely people?

Which aspects of healthy christian community, as shared by Paul, challenge you the most personally? What's one way you could grow in this area this week?

Discuss some of the ways you can put these values into practice in the weeks ahead.

TRY OUT

- Think of the needs and challenges for people in the church family. Is there one way you can offer support or meet that need for someone this week?
- Take a look through your diary for the weeks ahead, in what ways you can invite people into your day-to-day life to take steps towards intentional community (It could be walking the dog, sharing meals, inviting people into an activity or hobby)
- Think of one way you can offer hospitality in the weeks ahead – host a meal for people you do not know.
- Grow in understanding of the grace and mercy we find Jesus: read through Romans or something that helps you unpack the doctrine of grace.

PRAY