



SERMON GUIDES

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add in any optional scriptures and questions if needed, then wrap up by deciding on your next steps.

Visit woodlakeumc.org/sermonessentials for weekly sermon guides, devotionals, and more or if you have questions, contact Jill Perrin at jperrin@woodlakeumc.org.

Re-Entry | WEEK #4

01.

INTRODUCTION

This week we continue the sermon series called Re-Entry. Today's sermon will continue to focus on the disciples as they try to re-enter the world after the Jesus' resurrection. Pastor Josh spoke about unity and diversity.

02.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is your faith background? Do you have a specific denominational history? Methodist, Baptist, Catholics, etc.? Or did you grow up in a home with no religious background? Share your story.

Read Acts 2:42-47

- What actions defined the early group of believers?
- In what ways do we model these actions in our modern church?
- Where do you we fall short?
- What specific steps can we take to live in unity?

Read John 17: 20-23

- Who is Jesus praying for here?
- Jesus prays that we have unity as believers. What makes this possible?

This passage points to the Trinity. Jesus is in the Father, the Father is in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is in Jesus.

- How is each member of the Trinity different?
- How is each part of the Trinity the same?
- What does this mean for the church? Pastor Josh pointed out that the church is called to unity but not conformity. How are these two things different?
- What is the consequence of living in unity according to verse 23?



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Read Romans 12:3-8

- According to these verses is diversity beneficial? Why or why not?
- Can you share a time when diversity was helpful to you?
- Creating unity with diversity is a difficult task but for God it is natural. Think about God's creation, both the natural world and people, what would life be like if everything was a carbon copy of everything else?
- What does diversity in creation reveal about God's character?
- What steps can you take in your ordinary life to create unity in your world, while still honoring diversity?



NEXT STEPS

Pastor Josh asked us to consider these questions are next steps this week.

- 1) Do you study Scripture with those who may interpret differently?
- 2) Do you break bread with people not like you?
- 3) Do you pray with people you disagree with?
- 4) Do you worship God with people not like you?