



HOW TO ECHO | WEEK 3

ICE BREAKERS

Choose 1-2 of the following:

- What is your favorite way to stay connected with close friends and family?
- When it comes to connecting, what has been hardest on you during the Covid restrictions? Have you experienced any unexpected benefits connecting during this season? Have you discovered any new or creative ways to connect?

READ

Ephesians 2:42-47 (NLT)

⁴²“All the believers **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They **worshiped together at the Temple** each day, **met in homes** for the Lord’s Supper, and **shared their meals** with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. What does it mean to be devoted to something?
2. Why is devotion important in connecting with others?
3. What is your biggest obstacle in being devoted to connecting with others “in homes” – whether in person or on Zoom? What helps you (or would help you) devote to meeting with others consistently?

READ

Acts 6:1 (NLT)

“But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.”

QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. Pastor Andy said that relationships were tough before covid, and they are tough during covid. It takes work, sacrifice, devotion to stay connected in a healthy way. As the church grew, some of the new believers didn’t feel as connected and loved; some were going hungry. What practices did the early church need to intentionally renew, and even double down on?
2. Cultural and language differences made it more difficult to stay connected in the early church. Covid has made connection more challenging today. What can we be intentional about doing to help promote connection?

READ

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

³⁴“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.³⁵Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”



QUESTION TO CONSIDER

1. How does Jesus love us?
2. 1 John 4:19 (NIV) says "We love because he first loved us." Jesus took the initiative to restore connection with us. In fact, Jesus said this about Himself in Luke 19:10 (NLT) - "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Jesus came to restore connection with those who were lost, or disconnected, from the Father. What are some ways you can take initiative to promote healthy connection with someone this week?
3. Challenge: Echo group hosts and leaders devote their time and energy to create a place for people to connect with one another and God. Would you prayerfully consider taking a step of faith, and hosting or leading a group this fall? Sign up at echo.church/groupleaders to find out more, and start the process. If you are not there yet, would you commit to being a devoted group member this fall? Showing up consistently is one of the ways you can obey Jesus' command to love each other.



PRAYER

Share prayer requests and Pray:

Thank you Jesus, for investing your time and energy - for sacrificing your blood - so that we could be connected with our Heavenly Father! Thank you for how you use small groups to foster spiritual growth, and connection with you and one another. Help us to prioritize our connections with you and each other. Give us the courage to say YES if you ask us to host or lead a group. Please lead more people than ever to step up to host, lead, or attend a group at Echo.Church than ever before! Thank you! Amen.
