

Trust

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need." Acts 4:32-35

Opening Prayer

Check-In (Share an important or interesting thing from this past week.)

Exploring Trust

The passage from **Acts Ch. 4** above describes a time of extraordinary trust among the members of the early Church. They, or most of them, had complete trust in God. (Would it be more likely that we trusted our fellow Christians if we trusted God? Why, or why not? Why is it hard to trust God? Why is it hard to trust others?)

"We are careful to be honorable before the Lord, but we also want everyone else to see that we are honorable." **2 Corinthians 8:21** (What evidence do you expect to see that your fellow members are worthy of your confidence? Do we need to prove ourselves trustworthy before you would share a confidence with us?)

"Do to others as you would like them to do to you." **Luke 6:31** (How does this relate to the concepts of trust and integrity? Tell a story about gaining the trust of another individual.)

From the **Book of Common Prayer**: "What is our duty to our neighbors?"

To be honest and fair in our dealings; to seek justice, freedom, and the necessities of life for all people; and to use our talents and possessions as ones who must answer for them to God; to speak the truth, and not to mislead others by our silence..." **p. 848 Catechism** (Is this the kind of neighbor you would want? What are the attractive characteristics of this person? Do you always want to hear the truth, even when it may not flatter you? How have you reacted to unflattering truths? What does it mean, "...mislead others by our silence...?")

"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace." **Ephesians 4:2-3** (Is this a good reminder of what to do when a brother or sister approaches us with a question or a problem? Why are we so impatient with others sometimes? Tell a story about showing patience.)

"Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." **Philippians 2:4** (How can this make us strong in faith and in community?)

Closing Observations

Closing Prayer

All Bible quotes are from the New Living Translation.