

Pull Up A Chair

2026-02-01 • RYAN STRAARUP



Acts 2

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Ryan Straarup opened the Christlike Community series at the incarnation. John says the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us. Christ's first gift was not an ideology. It was his presence. From there Ryan traced how Jesus redefined family. Asked about his mother and brothers, Jesus pointed at the people around him: whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother. Family by obedience, not bloodline. Communion is what makes that new family visible. Ryan's summary line: we are not only saved by Christ. We are saved into him.

To get started

- Who made you feel like you belonged somewhere before you had earned it?

Looking back at the message

Presence is the through line. Start there rather than with the theology.

- 1 Ryan said Christ's first gift was his presence, not an ideology. What difference does that make to how you follow him?
- 2 Jesus does not save from a distance. He pitches his tent and moves into the neighborhood. How does that compare to the picture of God you grew up with?
- 3 Ryan used his kids arguing in the back seat as a picture of the church: still family, whether or not they are getting along. What did you make of that picture? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 1:14, Mark 3:31-35 and Hebrews 2:17-18 aloud.

- 4 Read John 1:14. What does it say the Word did, and what does the word among carry?
- 5 Read Mark 3:31-35. What is Jesus asked about his family, and how does he answer?
- 6 Hebrews 2 says Jesus is a merciful high priest because he suffered. What does that passage claim he understands from the inside?
- 7 Jesus redefines family around doing God's will. Who does that definition include that bloodline never could? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The good Samaritan point cuts. Give it room.

- 8 Ryan said your neighbor is the one you would rather keep at a distance. Who does that describe for you?
- 9 If presence is the gift, where is your presence most needed and least given right now?
- 10 What does it mean, practically, to treat the people in this church as family rather than acquaintances?
- 11 Is there someone in this church you have an unresolved issue with? You do not have to name them. OPTIONAL

The group together

Communion is where this landed. It is a good closing frame.

- 12 Ryan said communion is what makes the new family visible. What does taking it together say that words alone would not?
- 13 We are not only saved by Christ but saved into him. What does the second half of that sentence add?
- 14 Who could you pull up a chair for this month?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Where could you give your presence this week in a way that costs you something?

You might pray about

- For those who have never felt like family anywhere
- For unresolved things between people in this church
- For gratitude that God came near rather than shouted instructions
- For a table with room at it