

# Church Defined

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7 June - Ron Aulbach

## LIFE

Building life giving relationships

**CATCH UP:** Spend 20-30 minutes catching up with each member of the group and sharing prayer requests.

**YOUR STORY:** What is one thing you like about the “church”?

## GOD

Growing more like Jesus together

### ENGAGE THE MESSAGE:

1. When you hear the word “church” what do you immediately think of? Research of people outside the church overwhelmingly (70%) view the people in the church as judgmental, hypocritical and insensitive. What have you experienced?
2. Pastor Ron talked about how Barnabas had a unique gift of encouragement (Acts 11:23). The Bible uses the word in the Greek, *parakaleo*, to “lovingly call out” a person. Is that definition different from what you thought? How do you show encouragement to others? How can you work on this?
3. Three action items were given to show love. Pick one to practice and share it with someone else. Ask them for accountability & have them check in with you.
  - a. Love Creates Angles – Be aware of your body language and eye contact to be the most inclusive you can be.
  - b. Love Affirms – affirmation assigns value to an individual’s beliefs and opinions. It doesn’t mean that you fully agree, but that you value their thoughts and contributions.
  - c. Love Asks Questions – Simple questions of someone you are different from builds relational bridges. Be aware of how much you are talking and how much you are seeking to be curious of someone else.

## **OTHERS**

Loving God and loving others

**PRAYER CHALLENGE:** Close your time by praying for unity in our world, and specifically for racial unity and the healing of brokenness seen between people today.