

### Reflect on 1Thessalonians 5:14...

- What has been your experience with community...
- Describe a time when you were encouraged to grow as a result of the accountability of community...
- What does the role of vulnerability play in strengthening community...
- When/where did you experience Christian community that spurred you to be more like Jesus?
- Who played a significant role in your growing to be like Jesus?

James Bryan Smith writes, *I want a community who will challenge me to become who I already am; one in whom Christ dwells and delights, a light to the world, salt to the earth, the aroma of Christ to a dying world...which means offering both comfort and warning – so that I might live a life worthy of my calling.* (Smith, *Good and Beautiful Community*, p. 130-131).

- Many people like the “comfort” part of community. Why do you think people shy away from the warning part?
- What can we do (as a community of faith) to stretch people in this way?

### Takeaways:

Commit to one unexpected and unselfish act of kindness.

Have an honest conversation with someone about your experience with Christian community.