

UP, IN, OUT:

- We've been focused on what the church is in recent weeks. Has this affected how you view people outside the church?

OPEN:

- Describe a time in your life when you were part a of group and took on some of the culture or identity of the group as your own.

DIG:

- On page 47, start reading with the paragraph that begins with, "God has always..." and continue through the Revelation passage on page 48.
 - Which of the points in this section are most impacting to you?
- In the next paragraph, Jonathan makes the statement, "*A church is not a church until it comes together.*"
 - Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 - Why would this even matter?
- Read Matthew 18:20.
 - How does this fit with the idea of a personal relationship with God? Is God not with us if we are alone?
 - Read the context leading up to this verse. How does this change your understanding of the verse?
- Read Hebrews 10:24-27
 - What is the main point of this passage?
 - In what ways might not participating in church be a sin? How would you determine if your own lack of participation is a sin?

REFLECT:

- Page 54 describes churches as embassies or outposts :) of the kingdom of heaven.
 - In what ways should churches be embassies of heaven?
 - How do you think we're doing with this at VCC?

APPLY:

- What can you do personally to help VCC be a better embassy of the kingdom of heaven?

PRAY: