

# LIFE LINKS

## Growing Together



(Remember the point is not to get through all the questions but to facilitate connection between each other and God's word.)

### **:Life:**

What was the last live show that you attended?

### **:Bible:**

This week in Acts we zoom in on one of two stories that focus on Philip. Philip was selected by the apostles to devote to the ministry of service but, like Stephen, he has been called to preaching the gospel. Philip is the first to take the message of Jesus the Messiah to the Samaritans. Many in the region of Samaria come to faith in Christ through his preaching and are baptized. However, at this time they do not receive the Holy Spirit until the apostles arrive to pray over them. By waiting for the arrival of the apostles God is showing us that there is one church connected through the Holy Spirit under Jesus Christ. While the hatred that exists between Samaritans and Jews create the temptation to have two distinct churches, God wants to unite the two groups. There is no room for hatred in God's church.

What are some potential problems that they would encounter by bringing these two groups together?

What are the problems that we see today when there is a lack of unity among Christians?

What are practical ways that the church or churches can practice unity?

Read Scripture: Romans 11:17-24 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

How can we hold the kindness and severity of God in tension? How does this help us stay unified as a church?

We often think that someone has to lose in order for the church to stay unified, how can we have unity in a win-win situation?

**:Application:**

Who is your one, how is that going? How can we pray for them?

**:Prayer Requests:**

