

Introduction

Cinderella's Castle is the epicenter of Disney World. Chick-fil-A is the epicenter of the nugget-eating community. Oftentimes, we "go" to a church building because we see it as the epicenter of the Christian faith. But what if God designed the epicenter to be something way bigger than that? What if we get to play an active role in it too?

Discussion Questions

- 1. In your life, how have churches helped or harmed your unconditional love experiences?
- 2. What is one of the reasons you continue to gather in a group or a gathering? What is the biggest value it brings to your faith journey?
- 3. Why do people default to viewing faith as a private exercise? What obstacles are in the way of people experiencing faith in the context of community?
- 4. Read Hebrews 10:24–25. What does it look like to "spur one another on" in our group? How might we do that better for one another?
- 5. God designed the church as the ideal place for unconditional love to be personally experienced and publicly practiced. What is one "gathering" habit you need to integrate into your life?

Moving Forward

Jesus didn't seem to think the church was the epicenter—he was the epicenter. We gather to be reminded of his unconditional love, and in this season we get the opportunity to continue to gather in various forms. The form of the gathering is less important than the function of the gathering. We need to gather because unconditional love needs to be personally experienced and publicly practiced.

Changing Your Mind

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. – Hebrews 10:24–25