



9/21/2025 | What if I've been hurt by the church?

Reflect + Discuss

- Are you someone who likes to take risks, or do you tend to avoid it?
- Read Acts 2:42-45. How would you describe the life of the early church? In what ways does this picture of a close-knit community reflect your hopes for the church today, or how does it differ?
- Read Acts 5:1-2. Read Acts 6:1. The stories of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 and the dispute over food in Acts 6 show us a different side of the early church. What do these two events reveal about the reality of community, even one guided by the Holy Spirit?
- Read Colossians 3:13. This verse tells us to "bear with each other and forgive one another." Why do you think Paul included this instruction in a letter to believers? What does it tell us about the nature of Christian community, even in the first century?
- Knowing that every person is "messy," how can we learn to "bear with each other" when things go wrong? Why is it so important we learn how to "work things out" with one another? How might we grow spiritually by working through conflict rather than choosing to avoid it?
(Remember: We are not talking about the major violations or severe hurt, but rather the more common hurt that comes through having missed expectations).
- Jesus was personally wounded by religious hypocrisy. How does knowing "Jesus gets it" empower you to stay connected to a messy church? How can we hold healthy expectations of the church? When we find ourselves let down by the church, what steps can we take to repair or heal?
- We each may have different next steps following this message. If you are still processing hurt from a long time ago, what's one step you could take to move towards healing? If you are presently navigating hurt or conflict, without sharing details, what's one step you might take in light of this message? Are there ways this group can support one another as we continue to reflect on the topic of church hurt?

Pray

Pray that we would find comfort in knowing that Jesus gets whatever it is we may be walking through. Pray that we would find hope in knowing that while the church is made up of messy people, Jesus is perfect, and he is the one leading us. Pray that for those who need healing, that we would sense God's nearness in this moment. As we continue to reflect on this message, pray that we would be transformed more into the image of Jesus.

Next Steps

Check out the [resources page](#) for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out [courses](#).