

## Talk It Over

*Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.*

### Discuss:

1. What has your spiritual health been like over the past two and a half years? What has contributed to that health? What has detracted from it?
2. Did you find yourself embracing the freedom from routines that the pandemic first brought with it? What routines or practices did you enjoy giving up? Which ones did you miss?
3. How could the neglect or abandonment of consistent spiritual practices lead to the kind of “Death of God” reality that Friedrich Nietzsche described in 19th century Europe?
4. How do spectators contribute to a sporting event? In what ways could fans be seen as a vital part of the game? Why did teams place cardboard cutouts of spectators in the seats during the pandemic?
5. Is community (spectators, fans) essential to the full experience of the reality of God? Read Matthew 18:18-20. What is Jesus talking about here? How is he describing the reality and power of God being manifest in the presence of community?
6. Why are spiritual rituals and routines especially important for children and families? What does “spiritual structure” produce?
7. What practices or routines might you start or resume to heighten your awareness of God? What practices did you stop over the past two and a half years that you might be well served to resume?



### Wrap Up:

Spend time in prayer.