



**Session 4**  
**Community and Priesthood of all Believers**

## INSTRUCTOR



**Dejan Aždajić** holds two master's degrees in Christian and Islamic Theology and a PhD in the anthropology of Islam. He has been actively involved in church planting and Muslim-Christian dialogue for many years and currently works as a professor of Practical Theology at the Giessen school of theology, Germany. There he trains and equips young men and women of God for the work of the ministry and the spreading of the Kingdom of God. His most recent book is *\*The Shaping Shaikh: The Role of the Shaikh in Lived Islam among Sufis in Bosnia and Herzegovina\** (Berlin De Gruyter 2020) He is happily married and has a young son.

## Goals

In this session, Dr. Aždajić guides us through what the church is and shows that it is more than just a building. We will see the importance of being in community and accepting our brokenness as we continue on our journey of being transformed into the image of Christ.

## Sessions Overview

1. Christian Disciplines
2. The Human Condition
3. Prayer
- 4. Community and Priesthood of all Believers**
5. Decision Making and the Will of God
6. Maturing Your Spiritual Life
7. Joy and Rest for the Soul

## Fill in the Worksheet

1. How does Dr. Aždajić define what “church” is?

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2. Dr. Aždajić lists some imagery that is used in the scriptures such as, Shepherd and flock (Matthew 18:12-14; John 10:1-30) Vine and branches (John 15:1-17) House or temple (Ephesians 2:20-22) Bride and garden (Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 19:7-8) Body and Christ as head (Romans 12:5; Colossians 1:18-24). What do these images have in common?

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3. "The biblical function of a church is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a physical building."

4. What are some differences in reading a book about someone, or talking with the person whom the book is about?

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5. Dr. Aždajić mentions the trinity of individualism; self needs, self wants, and self-feelings. By only focusing on our individual desires, we miss the community that is central to Church. Are there and needs, feelings, or wants that you consider more important than God?

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6. “To the degree that you know yourself opens up your capacity for knowing God. If you are in the dark over yourself, understanding your past your pain, your suffering, your fears, your joys, whatever it may be, if you don't understand that, then you're limited in your ability to understand God.” What are some ways we can know ourselves better? How can we make ourselves vulnerable to God?

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7. What do we gain by accepting our brokenness?

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8. What is our strength, and what is our hope on this pilgrimage journey?

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