

## Conversation Starters

- Who are the people you are closest to and how did you meet?
- What did it take to build those relationships?

## Discuss

**Life in community is essential to a spiritual life. Without it, we become emotionally and spiritually dysfunctional. And the best picture of community can be found in the Church. It's a place where you can love and be loved, know and be known, serve and be served, and celebrate and be celebrated.**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” ([Acts 2:42-47. NIV](#))*

- Have you ever experienced Christian community like we see in Acts 2?
- What's attractive about the portrait of community in Acts 2?

**You can't develop yourself spiritually to the degree God intends apart from other people. So finding and committing to a community of faith is one of the most important spiritual steps you can take. The Bible teaches us that the church is a family and expects Christians to be members of a church family.**

*“Be devoted to one another.” ([Romans 12:10. NIV](#))*

*“Love one another.” ([John 13:34 NIV](#))*

*“...you are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian” ([Ephesians 2:19. LB](#))*

- What are you doing right now to invest in a church community?
- Who are the people fulfilling the role of the “one anothers” for you?

**Committing to membership in a church is only the entrance to community. Once you are within it, you need to start developing strategic, spiritual relationships in your life that invite challenge, encouragement and support. You can do this by joining some sort of smaller group within the larger group of your church community.**

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” ([Proverbs 27:17. NIV](#))*

*“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.” ([Hebrews 10:24-25. NIV](#))*

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” ([Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. NIV](#))*

- Are you positioning yourself for community by being transparent, trustworthy, and selfless?
- What person is a good example to you of how the Christian life should be lived?
- Who mentors you and ignites your love for God?
- What do you think would help strengthen your relationships?

## Next Steps

**Take some time to think about the people in your life. Are there people you need to add? Are there people that you need to spend less time with? Take a next step this week to build and strengthen the community around you.**

**Mar. 3:** [The Grounds Online Book Club: “After I Believe”](#)

**Mar. 15 & 17:** [TeamLife](#)

**Mar. 16:** [The Purpose and Practice of Prayer](#)

## Continued Reading

Read [Acts 2:42-47](#); Romans 12:[5](#),[10](#),[16](#); 14:[13](#),[19](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#); [Ephesians 2:19](#); [4:32](#); [1 Peter 4:9](#); [John 13:34](#); [Proverbs 27:17](#); [Ecclesiastes 4:9-10](#).

## Prayer

God, thank you for the people in our lives. Thank you for the community that you are building and the vision for the community you want us to be. Help us to flesh out that community on a daily basis. Surround us with the people we need, and help us to be the people and community you desire us to be.