



# PURSUING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

## Study 1: True Fellowship

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### ICE BREAKER

Take a moment to reflect on the community groups or Bible studies you have been a part of. What is one aspect that was truly impactful for you? Share in a couple sentences what that was.

### OPENING PRAYER

#### **INTRODUCING OUR TOPIC** *(invite 2 people to each read a paragraph)*

After Jesus ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9-11) about 120 of his followers gathered together for prayer. Their first task was to select a 12th apostle, Matthias, to replace Judas Iscariot. Shortly thereafter, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon them with tongues of fire and they began to speak in other languages, the languages of the many ethnicities present in the crowd of people attracted to the miraculous presence of God. The apostle Peter brought clarity to the phenomenon by Biblically explaining the news of salvation. He said,

*“Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord will call to Himself.” (Acts 2:38-39 NASB).*

About 3000 people responded to Peter’s message. The Church was born. Everyone began *“continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching, and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42).*

So what is Biblical fellowship? Our English term fellowship comes from the Greek word *koinonia* which connotes an intimate community who share a common belief that God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son, by and in the Holy Spirit welcomes

humankind into His family by grace. When we acknowledge the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and confess His lordship over our lives, we become family, not just with God, but with each other.

## **OPENING OUR BIBLES**

1. Everyone turns to passage and have one person read it out loud
2. Pause for a moment and allow people to quietly reflect on the passage
3. Ask the question/s in the text box after reading all 3 passages

### **Section 1: Source of fellowship**

Let's see what we learn about the source of fellowship from these passages?

I John 1:1-4

I Corinthians 1:9

Colossians 1:18-20

What do we learn about the source of fellowship from these passages?

How would we summarize what we have learned in one sentence? (What's the bottom line)

### **Section 2: Foundational expressions**

In the Book of Acts we see the foundational expressions of Christian fellowship. What do you observe in each passage?

Acts 2:42-47

Acts 6:1-7

Acts 13:1-3

### **Section 3: Sharing in common**

Galatians 6:1-5

I Thessalonians 2:5-8

James 5:13-16

A related idea of koinonia is “sharing in common”. What and how are we to share in common?

How would we summarize what we have learned in one sentence? (What’s the bottom line)

### **APPLICATION**

If you have time constraints, consider skipping the questions with an asterisk.

As we reflect on this idea of Biblical fellowship, what is our assessment of where we are at as a Community Group? As a Church?

*(Of course, there is always room for improvement, but be sure to be constructive)*

What fears or inhibitions might exist?

Are there spiritual wounds we or others may have received that need to be healed?\*

*(optional, especially for newer groups)*

"Are there needs around us in the community of believers that we can meet together?\*

Is there one thing we as a community group would like to put into practice?

## **ENHANCEMENT**

On our NCC website <https://www.newtoncovenant.org/pbc> you will find an excellent article to read on the topic of True Fellowship as well as two helpful tools. To get the most out of this study we really want to encourage you to access these. They are short yet poignant. (If we can commit as a group to doing this between now and when we next meet, we can engage together on what we learned.)

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

There are blank pages at the back of your study to jot down prayer requests. It would be wonderful to commit to praying throughout the week, checking in on someone you prayed for and to refer back to this list from time to time to rejoice in answered prayer.

- ❖ If you have time share prayer requests
- ❖ If you are limited in time, break into smaller clusters for prayer
- ❖ If you are very short on time, one person to close in prayer

Please try to ask for prayer for yourself or someone close to you. It's easy to evade our own needs by asking for distant prayer needs but that really does not build true community. Prayer is how we care for one another and lift one another's joys and burdens before the Lord.