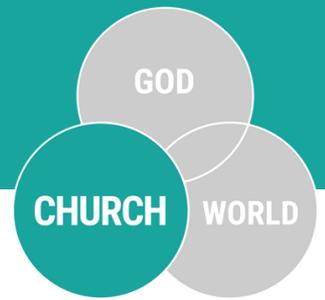


# COMMUNITY

I share life with other believers as we follow Jesus together.



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Genesis 1:26-27 describes how God made humans in his image. Actually the verse says, Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image... Genesis 1:26a God has existed always in the setting of relationship. God is one God, yet he exists in three persons – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Relationship and community is part of the very nature of God.

There are many aspects of God's nature that we were meant to live out. One of those aspects is living out life in community. The church lived out this picture of community from its very beginning. Acts 2:42-47 gives us a beautiful picture of the way the early church lived this out. They ate together, they prayed together, they took care of each other, they worshipped the Lord together. What we see in Acts is an incredible picture of community in action. This is what the church was meant to be. The church isn't a building, a social club or a corporate entity. The church is a community of Christ followers who live out the mission and purpose of Jesus.

Speaking of the mission of Jesus, there is an interesting note at the end of Acts 2. The chapter ends with a verse that states: "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." What a powerful reminder. When it comes to the rhythm of community in the church, the purpose is to grow God's kingdom, not to form a close knit clique. The point of the church living out the rhythm of community is to point others to Jesus.

## Take an Inventory

There is a powerful list of actions given in Acts 2. Where are the following things occurring in your life in relationship to the church?

Learning? Fellowship? Eating together? Prayer? Lived out answers to prayer? Care of each other's needs? Participation in life at home? Praising of God? Making new disciples?

Need help with some of the items in your inventory? Perhaps you can try some of the following:

- Join a small group
- Invite someone from church over for a meal
- Join a volunteer team
- Attend a school or team event of a church friend's child
- Make a prayer list or card for a small group of people at church
- Invite a person who is not part of a church into your time with your church friends

Now come up with three more ideas on your own. What can you do to lean into the rhythm of community?



### PROCESS

Think through what you have learned and summarize it on your own words or write out how you would explain it to another person.

### PRAY

- Pray – Pray that God allows you to develop the rhythm of community with your church. Pray that your growth in community results in growth of God's kingdom.

### LOOK

- Look – Look for people that you might want to grow in friendship with at your church. How can you get to know each other better?

### RESPOND

- Respond – What is one way you can increase your connectedness with your church? What is one way you can increase your connectedness with someone at a different church than yours? How can you be praying for churches in addition to the one you attend?

