

We Grow Together

Acts 2:42-47

September 20, 2026

Vitality

DAY 1: YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE ALONE

READING: GENESIS 2:18, ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

From the very beginning, God declared that isolation was not good. This was not simply about marriage or companionship in a general sense. It was a declaration woven into the fabric of creation itself. We bear the image of a God who exists in community (Father, Son & Holy Spirit), and that image is most fully expressed when we live in genuine connection with others. The show Alone illustrates what happens when isolation takes hold even of the strongest and most capable people. Eventually, loneliness breaks what skill and strength cannot sustain. Your faith is no different. The question worth sitting with today is not whether you need community, but whether you are willing to pursue it honestly.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your life have you been trying to carry something alone that was meant to be carried with others?

Practical Application: Identify one person in your life with whom you could begin (or continue prioritizing) to build a deeper, more honest faith relationship this week. Reach out to them today.

DAY 2: DEVOTED, NOT JUST ATTENDING

READING: ACTS 2:42-47, HEBREWS 10:23-25

Consider 'attendance' vs 'devotion'. Attendance is driven by convenience. Devotion is driven by commitment that persists even when convenience is absent. The early believers in Acts were not casual participants in their faith. Their continued devotion carried the meaning of remaining steadfast, holding firmly, and refusing to drift. Devotion is an arrangement of your life, not merely an agreement in your heart. Devotion to community is devotion to growth.

Personal Reflection: Honestly evaluate the difference between your attendance in community and your devotion to it. Where does convenience tend to win over commitment?

Practical Application: Look at your schedule this week and make one concrete, non-negotiable opportunity at VPC, whether a Sunday gathering, a connect group, or a one-on-one conversation with a trusted person.

DAY 3: THE DEPTH OF FELLOWSHIP

READING: 1 JOHN 1:3-7, ROMANS 12:9-16

The word fellowship has been softened over time into something that resembles little more than friendly socializing. But its original meaning is far richer. It carries the idea of deep, participatory sharing in a common life, mutual partnership, and shared investment in something greater than any one individual. It is the same word used to describe the bonds of business partnership and marriage. True fellowship is not about having a large circle of acquaintances. It is about having a small number of people with whom you are willing to be genuinely known, to risk honesty, to confess struggle, and to receive truth. That kind of fellowship is where lasting transformation happens.

Personal Reflection: Do you have relationships where you are genuinely known? What is preventing you from going beyond the surface?

Practical Application: This week, choose one relationship and move it one level deeper. Share something honest about where you are struggling in your faith or your life, and invite that person to do the same.

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DAY 4: IRON SHARPENS IRON

READING: PROVERBS 27:17, GALATIANS 6:1-2, JAMES 5:16

Growth in faith is not passive. It requires the friction of honest relationship. Proverbs describes this as iron sharpening iron, an image that involves contact, pressure, and resistance. The early church understood that their faith was not a private matter to be managed alone. They confessed to one another, carried one another's burdens, and stirred one another toward love and good works. The questions worth asking yourself are not comfortable ones: Who is lifting with you when life gets heavy? Who is calling you upward when you cannot see your own potential? Who will come after you when you begin to drift? These are the functions of genuine community of faith, and they cannot happen in isolation.

Personal Reflection: Which of those questions above is most convicting to you right now? What does its answer reveal about the current depth of your faith relationships?

Practical Application: Write down the names of two or three people who currently fulfill those roles in your life. If you cannot name anyone, bring that honest need to God in prayer today and take one step toward a connect group or community gathering this week.

DAY 5: GROWING TOGETHER ON MISSION

READING: ACTS 2:47, MATTHEW 5:14-16, JOHN 13:34-35

The early church did not set out to be attractive. They set out to be devoted, and their devotion became attractive. The result was that the Lord added to their number day by day. A community of people genuinely loving one another, carrying one another's burdens, confessing honestly, and growing faithfully becomes a visible testimony to the power of the Gospel. This is not incidental to the mission of the church. It is central to it. When a church lives out faith together in this way, others are drawn to what they see because they are seeing something they were designed for but have not yet found. Growing together is not just personal benefit. It is public witness.

Personal Reflection: How does the quality of your relationships within VPC either strengthen or weaken the witness of the church in your town and region?

Practical Application: This week, invite someone to try VPC who is not connected to church. Let your growing together be the invitation.