



Following Jesus Together: God's Design for Biblical Community

August 2, 2026

Ice Breaker

What is one hobby, sport, or activity you have done mainly because it gave you a chance to spend time with other people?

Key Verses

- Acts 2:42-47
- John 17:17
- Mark 2:1-12

Questions

- The pastor described the early believers as "devoted" to the apostles' teaching, using a Greek word that means to persist faithfully and hold fast with unwavering commitment. How would you describe your own current commitment to studying God's Word, and what does that look like on a practical, weekly level?

- Acts 2:42-47 paints a picture of a church that was deeply connected in everyday life. What stands out most to you from that description, and why does it feel so different from how many Christians live today?
- The sermon drew a distinction between information and transformation, noting that "information happens in rows, transformation happens in circles." Have you experienced that difference personally? What made the difference in a season when you actually grew and changed?
- Biblical fellowship (koinonia) means sharing life so deeply that another person's burdens become your burdens and their joys become your joys. Who in your life currently knows you at that level, and how did that kind of closeness develop?
- The four friends in Mark 2 literally carried their paralyzed friend to Jesus when He could not get there on His own. Can you think of a time when someone carried a corner of your mat, or when you carried a corner for someone else? What did that experience teach you about the body of Christ?
- The pastor listed nearly 61 "one another" commands in the New Testament, including love, serve, bear burdens, encourage, forgive, and pray for one another. Which of these do you find most natural to give, and which do you find hardest to receive from others?
- The sermon argued that healthy small groups are not a "holy huddle" but a launching pad for witness. How does being in close community with other believers actually make you a more faithful witness to the people around you?
- The pastor closed with the image of redwood trees whose roots intertwine so they can withstand fierce storms. What storms in your own life have made you realize you cannot follow Jesus well in isolation, and what step do you sense God is inviting you to take toward deeper community right now?

Life Application

This week, take one concrete step toward biblical community. If you are not currently in a small group, commit to signing up or reaching out to someone about joining one. If you are already in a group, identify one "one another" command from the New Testament and look for a specific, intentional way to practice it with someone in your group before you meet again. Write down the name of one person you will pray for daily this week, whether that is someone in your group who is carrying a heavy burden or a friend or family member who does not yet know Jesus.

Key Takeaways

- The Christian life was never designed to be lived alone. From the very beginning in Acts 2, God's people were meant to be devoted to one another, not just to private belief or occasional attendance.
- A healthy church is built on biblical truth before it is built on activity or programs. Devotion to God's Word shapes disciples and keeps the community anchored to what is true rather than to personalities or preferences.
- Biblical fellowship (koinonia) goes far deeper than social gatherings. It means lives that are genuinely intertwined, where burdens are shared, victories are celebrated together, and the "one another" commands of the New Testament become a natural way of life.
- Small groups are not optional for spiritual growth. They are the practical environment where transformation happens, where people are truly known, and where the commands of Scripture can actually be lived out.
- Biblical community is outward-facing by design. When believers grow closer to God and to one another, they naturally become more faithful witnesses, and the watching world sees something different in them.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank you for this time together and for the truth of your Word. Thank you that you did not design us to walk through life alone but placed us in a family of believers who can carry one another, speak truth to one another, and point each other back to Jesus. Forgive us for the times we have settled for attendance without connection, or for hearing your Word without letting it change how we actually live. Give us the humility to be known, the courage to take the next step toward community, and the love to carry the corners of each other's mats when life becomes heavy. May our roots grow deep and intertwine with one another so that when the storms come, we stand together. Send us out from this place not to walk alone, but to follow Jesus together, and to invite others to do the same. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, amen.