

# GOD'S PLAN



## WHY THE CHURCH?

SCAN THE QR  
CODE FOR THE  
FULL SERMON



### WEEK 10

## TRUE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Acts 2:37-47*

We often confuse showing up with truly connecting, but this powerful exploration of Acts 2:37-47 challenges us to understand the profound difference between mere socializing and genuine Christian fellowship. The early church experienced something extraordinary after Peter's Pentecost sermon—3,000 people were added to the church in a single day, not just as attendees, but as participants in a transformative community. The key insight here is that true fellowship requires a prerequisite: salvation. We cannot experience authentic Christian community without first being in fellowship with Christ Himself. This isn't about exclusion, but about the reality that fellowship, or *koinonia* in Greek, means sharing a common life—and that common life is centered on our relationship with Jesus. The early believers devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer, creating a community so compelling that outsiders noticed and wanted to be part of it. They met needs as they arose, praised God together, and lived with such love that a second-century philosopher wrote about how Christians cared for widows, orphans, prisoners, and even strangers as true brothers and sisters. The challenge for us today is to move beyond passive attendance and engage intentionally in fellowship—inviting others to our homes, initiating spiritual conversations, staying after services to connect, and making deposits into relationships rather than only making withdrawals. When we truly fellowship together, we don't just benefit individually; we create a witness so powerful that the world takes notice.

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### DAY 1: The Foundation of Fellowship

#### Reading:

*Acts 2:37-41*

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each 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. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself." 40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" 41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

**Devotional:**

True fellowship begins with true salvation. Before the early church could experience the blessings of community, 3,000 souls first had to respond to Peter's preaching with repentance and faith.

Fellowship isn't merely socializing—it's sharing a common life in Christ. Without this foundation, we cannot experience the depth of relationship God intends for His church. Just as these early believers were "pierced to the heart" and responded with conviction, we must first examine our own relationship with Christ. Are you in fellowship with Jesus? Only then can you truly fellowship with His people. Salvation is the prerequisite to receiving all the benefits and blessings that Christian community offers.

**Reflection Question:**

Have you entered into genuine fellowship with Christ through repentance and faith, or are you merely attending church activities?

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**DAY 2:** Devoted to Fellowship**Reading:**

*Acts 2:42-43*

42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

**Devotional:**

The early church didn't accidentally stumble into fellowship—they "continually devoted themselves" to it. Notice that fellowship appears alongside teaching, breaking bread, and prayer as essential practices. This wasn't casual socializing; it was intentional sharing of a common life centered on Christ. When believers genuinely fellowship, miraculous things happen—signs and wonders occurred because they were together, unified, and focused on God. Fellowship promotes spiritual growth by encouraging us toward the disciplines of faith. When you see another believer's generosity, prayer life, or Scripture knowledge, it challenges you to grow. Are you making deposits into fellowship, or only withdrawals? True fellowship requires intentionality and sacrifice.

**Reflection Question:**

What specific step can you take this week to move from casual attendance to devoted fellowship?

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**DAY 3:** Meeting Needs Through Love**Reading:**

*Acts 2:44-45*

44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

**Devotional:**

The early church's fellowship produced radical generosity. As needs arose, believers sold possessions and shared freely—not from compulsion, but from love. This wasn't socialism; it was Spirit-led compassion responding to genuine needs. Some new believers had traveled to Jerusalem for a feast and stayed longer than planned to receive teaching. Others lost jobs because of their newfound faith. The church noticed and responded. True fellowship means knowing one another well enough to identify needs and having hearts willing to meet them. When we're truly doing life together, we see opportunities to serve. This kind of sacrificial love doesn't happen in isolation or through surface-level interactions—it requires deep, intentional relationships.

**Reflection Question:**

What need in your church family could you help meet this week through sacrificial giving?

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**DAY 4:** Unity in Diversity**Reading:**

*Acts 2:46-47*

46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**Devotional:**

The early church was remarkably diverse—different languages, cultures, political views, and backgrounds—yet unified around Christ. They broke bread from house to house, praising God together continually. Their fellowship was so compelling that outsiders noticed and wanted to join them. A second-century philosopher observed how Christians loved one another, cared for widows and orphans, and shared with those in need without boasting. This wasn't performance; it was genuine love overflowing from their relationship with Christ. When Jesus is truly the center, we can live in harmony despite our differences. Our unity shouldn't come from shared politics, hobbies, or preferences, but from our common salvation and devotion to Christ.

**Reflection Question:**

Are you allowing secondary differences to divide you from other believers, or is Christ your unifying focus?

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**DAY 5:** The Fire of Fellowship**Reading:**

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

**Devotional:**

Like coals that burn hotter and longer when kept together, Christians thrive in community. Isolated, we grow cold and ineffective; together, we burn bright for God's glory. Scripture commands us not to forsake assembling together, especially as we see the day drawing near. We live in the last days—the signs are everywhere—making fellowship more critical than ever. Yet many believers are doing the opposite, isolating themselves through busyness, hurt, or preference. Fellowship isn't optional; it's essential for spiritual vitality. It provides companionship, accountability, encouragement, and a foretaste of eternity. Don't be a coal off by itself. Show up early, stay late, initiate conversations, invite others into your life.

**Reflection Question:**

How can you prioritize fellowship more intentionally, especially considering the urgency of the times we're living in?

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**Closing Challenge:**

This week, move beyond attendance to authentic fellowship. Invite someone to share a meal, initiate a spiritual conversation, meet a need you've noticed, or reconcile a strained relationship. Remember: fellowship is a two-way street requiring both giving and receiving. Make deposits, not just withdrawals, into the life of your church family.