



# COMMUNITY

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Sacred Practices

# Prologue

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Community is not something we stumble into; it is a gift of God and a way of life that flows out of our identity in Christ. Colossians 3:12–17 reminds us that we are chosen, holy, and dearly loved, and because of that, we are called to live together with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Community forms when we bear with one another, forgive one another, learn God’s Word together, and apply it in our shared lives. It is through practicing these rhythms that we move from simply gathering to truly belonging, seeing others as God sees them, and allowing His Word to shape our relationships. This practice isn’t about perfection—it’s about intentionally living out Christlike character in real-life relationships, noticing how God transforms both hearts and communities as we do life together.



# Content

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- Wk 1 Characteristics of Christ- Centered Community** Pg 6  
Practicing Christian community is not built on personality, preference, or convenience, but on people who have been changed by Christ and are learning to love like Him.
- Wk 2 Bearing With and Forgiving One Another** Pg 23  
Healthy Christian community requires grace-filled endurance and forgiveness, reflecting the forgiveness we have received from Christ.
- Wk 3 Learning God's Word Together** Pg 40  
Christian community is formed as we let God's Word dwell richly among us, shaping our peace, worship, and wisdom together.
- Wk 4 Applying God's Word Together** Pg 57  
Christian community is strengthened when we actively live out God's Word together in everyday life.
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## Characteristics of Christ- Centered Community

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At the start of the week, choose one characteristic from Colossians 3:12–14 (compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, or love). Intentionally “put it on” each day in your interactions—especially in moments of irritation, disagreement, or inconvenience.

## Live It Out All Week

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- 1 Name your chosen virtue each morning.
- 2 Look for one specific moment per day to practice it on purpose.
- 3 Notice what feels natural and what feels forced.

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# CHOSEN & BELONGING

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:12

☞ 1 Peter 2:9-10

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Community begins with remembering who we are in Christ—chosen, holy, and dearly loved.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does knowing you are loved by God shape the way you relate to others? Why is this identity awareness the foundation of living out the practice of community?

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# CLOTHING OURSELVES WITH CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER

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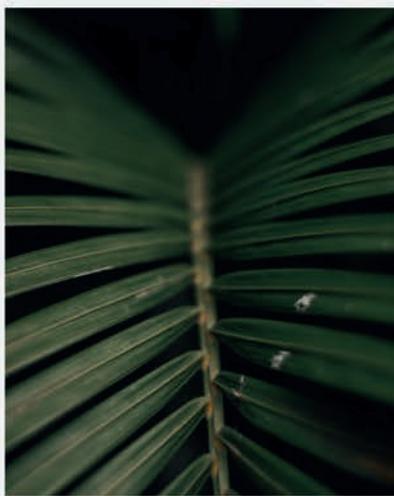
## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:12

☞ Philippians 2:3-5

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

In Colossians 3:12 Paul describes these qualities as something we intentionally "put on" each day. Community is shaped as we choose compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience in our interactions.



## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Which of these Christlike qualities do you most naturally put on? Which do you have to work harder at?

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# COMPASSION TOWARD ONE ANOTHER

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Matthew 9:36, 14:14

☞ Mark 6:34

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Jesus' compassion moved Him toward people, not away from them.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Who might God be inviting you to see with greater compassion?

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# LOVE HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER

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## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What would it look like to choose love in a tangible way today?

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## SCRIPTURE:

📖 Colossians 3:14

📖 John 13:34-35

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Love is the defining mark that binds a community together in Christ.

# GROUP QUESTIONS



Were you able to engage in the practice this week? If so, how did it go? What did you learn and how did you grow through the practice?

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What characteristic was hardest to put on? What changed in you—or in others—when you practiced it consistently?

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When did practicing it feel most unnatural or costly?

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Did you notice any change—internally or relationally—as you engaged in the practice this week?

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## Bearing With and Forgiving One Another

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Throughout the week, practice slowing your reactions in moments of frustration, offense, or misunderstanding. Before responding, silently ask: What does it look like to bear with this person right now?

## Live It Out All Week

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- 1** Pause before responding to a tense text, email, or conversation.
- 2** Choose understanding over immediate correction at least once a day.
- 3** If forgiveness is needed, pray it—even if you don't feel it yet.

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# BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER

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## SCRIPTURE:

👉 Colossians 3:13a

👉 Ephesians 4:2

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Bearing with others means choosing relationship even when it's uncomfortable.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Who do you find most difficult to bear with, and why? What would it take for you to bear with them?

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# FORGIVENESS AS OBEDIENCE

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:13b

☞ Matthew 6:14-15

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Forgiveness is not minimizing hurt—it is trusting God with justice and healing.



## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What makes forgiveness difficult in your current relationships?

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# FORGIVEN PEOPLE FORGIVE

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## SCRIPTURE:

📖 Matthew 18:21-35

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Jesus calls us to forgiveness that flows from mercy received.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

How has God's forgiveness shaped your view of forgiving others?

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# HEALING THROUGH GRACE

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## SCRIPTURE:

📖 Ephesians 4:31-32

📖 1 Peter 3:8-9

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Grace-filled forgiveness creates space for healing and reconciliation.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What step toward forgiveness might God be inviting you to take?

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# GROUP QUESTIONS



Were you able to do the practice this week? What did you learn and how did it help you live out Biblical community?

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What changed when you chose to pause instead of responding immediately?

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Where did you notice your instinct to react quickly this week?

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Was there a situation where forgiveness felt especially difficult—or unfinished?

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Why do conflict and disappointment seem inevitable in close community?

Read Ephesians 4:31-32 and 1 Peter 3:8-9 - How can community be a safe place to work through hurt?

Read Matthew 18:21-35 - How has God's forgiveness shaped your view of forgiving others? Can you speak to a specific example/relationship?

What is one step of obedience you want to take this week in light of what we've learned about community?



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## Learning God's Word Together

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Bring Scripture into your real  
conversations this week—not in  
a preachy way, but a shared  
way.

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## Live It Out All Week

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- 1 Share a verse that stood out in a conversation
- 2 Ask, “What do you think this passage is saying to us?”
- 3 Text a verse to someone in your group with no commentary

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# CHRIST'S PEACE IN COMMUNITY

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:15

☞ Romans 12:18

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

God's peace grows as we submit our relationships to Christ.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Where do you sense a need for Christ's peace in your relationships?

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# A COMMUNITY CENTERED ON GOD'S WORD

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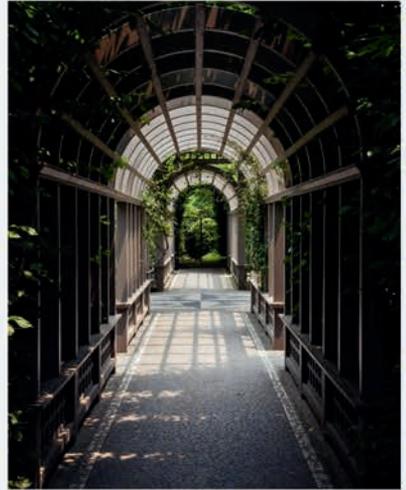
## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:16

☞ Acts 2:42

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Christian community is not centered on personalities or opinions, but on the shared authority and truth of God's Word.



## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What does it look like for community to truly center itself on Scripture?

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# TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER

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## SCRIPTURE:

- ☞ Colossians 3:16
- ☞ Ephesians 4:14-16

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

God uses loving truth spoken in community to guide, correct, and strengthen His people.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Why are both encouragement and correction important in Christian community?

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# A WORD-FORMED COMMUNITY

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## SCRIPTURE:

- ☞ Colossians 3:16
- ☞ Hebrews 10:24-25

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

When God's Word dwells richly among us, it doesn't just shape individual hearts—it forms a people. A community grounded in Scripture grows in unity, wisdom, and love as we are shaped together by the same truth.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

In what ways could your group grow if Scripture more fully shaped how you relate to one another?

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# GROUP QUESTIONS



Were you able to engage in the practice this week? If so, how did it go? What did you learn and how did you grow through the practice?

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Where did Scripture naturally come up in conversation this week? Where did it feel awkward?

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How did sharing God's Word with others differ from reading it alone?

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What might change in our group if Scripture became a regular part of our everyday conversations?

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Were you able to do some (or all) of this week's devotionals? If so, what stood out to you? How did God speak to you this week about the practice of community?

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Read Colossians 3:16 and Acts 2:42 - Why is learning Scripture together different from studying it alone?

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What can make Scripture discussion challenging in groups?

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Read Colossians 3:15 and Romans 12:18 - Where do you sense a need for Christ's peace in your relationships?

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## Applying God's Word Together

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Identify one small, concrete way to live out God's Word this week that involves other people—encouraging, serving, reconciling, or showing generosity—and actually do it.

## Live It Out All Week

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- 1 Invite someone else into the act  
(or let them invite you)
- 2 Keep it simple and doable, not  
impressive
- 3 Pay attention to how obedience  
affects relationships

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# LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ Colossians 3:17

☞ 1 Corinthians 10:31

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Everything we do is an opportunity to reflect Christ.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

How does this verse shape the way you view daily life?

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# FAITH EXPRESSED THROUGH ACTION

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## SCRIPTURE:

☞ James 1:22-25

☞ Matthew 7:24-27

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

In Colossians 3:12 Paul describes these qualities as something we intentionally "put on" each day. Community is shaped as we choose compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience in our interactions.



## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Which of these Christlike qualities do you most naturally put on? Which do you have to work harder at?

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# ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER TO OBEY

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## SCRIPTURE:

🕒 Hebrews 10:24-25

🕒 Proverbs 27:17

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

How can encouragement help others take steps of obedience?

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

Community helps us follow Jesus faithfully.

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# A WITNESS TO THE WORLD

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## SCRIPTURE:

 John 13:34-35

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT:

A loving community reflects Jesus to the world. Loving one another is the foundation of applying God's word together.

## REFLECTION QUESTION:

What could “loving one another as Jesus has loved you” look like in your life right now? What can you do today to start living that out?

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# GROUP QUESTIONS



Were you able to engage in the practice this week? If so, how did it go? What did you learn and how did you grow through the practice?

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What act of obedience did you practice this week, and who was involved?

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How did doing this with others shape the experience—for better or worse?

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What did you learn about God, yourself, or community through this act?

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Were you able to do some (or all) of this week's devotionals? If so, what stood out to you? How did God speak to you this week about the practice of community?

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Read Galatians 5:13-14 - Is obedience easier or harder when others were involved? Why?

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Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and James 1:22 - how do these passages show us that growth isn't meant to happen alone? Why is applying God's Word in community so essential to spiritual growth?

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Where have you seen shared obedience strengthen relationships?

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Read Colossians 3:17 - How does this passage expand our view of worship?

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Read Galatians 5:13-14 - How can community provide accountability without pressure?

What does that look like?

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How does applying God's Word through serving others together shape group identity?

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What practices from these four weeks do you want to continue?

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After focusing on community the last four weeks, what is one way God is inviting you to live differently moving forward?

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