

# 5-Day Devotional: Becoming a Dangerous Community

## Day 1: Love That Proves Discipleship

**Reading:** John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

**Devotional:** Jesus gave us a new commandment: love each other as He loved us. This isn't superficial tolerance or casual affection—it's sacrificial, laying-down-your-life love. The world watches how we treat one another, and our genuine love becomes proof of our discipleship. When we're patient with each other's failures, when we keep no record of wrongs, when we celebrate others' victories as our own, we reflect Christ authentically. Consider today: Are you pretending to love, or really loving? The dangerous church isn't marked by programs or buildings, but by a community so radically loving that the broken and lonely are drawn to the light of Christ within us.

**Reflection Question:** Who in your church community needs to experience Christ's sacrificial love through you today?

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## Day 2: Genuine Community Over Superficial Gathering

**Reading:** Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:9-16

**Devotional:** The early church didn't just meet on Sundays—they did life together daily. They shared meals, prayed together, met each other's needs, and nobody lacked anything. Modern church culture has often traded this depth for Sunday niceties and superficial greetings. God calls us to something radically different: authentic relationships where we can be vulnerable, where we rejoice together and mourn together, where we practice hospitality not as duty but as delight. This requires laying down our

pride, our preferences, and our self-protection. When we open our homes, our hearts, and our lives to genuine fellowship, we create the safe, hopeful community the world desperately needs.

**Reflection Question:** What keeps you from going deeper in community—pride, busyness, or fear of vulnerability?

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## **Day 3: Rooted Where God Plants You**

**Reading:** Jeremiah 29:4-7; Psalm 1:1-3

**Devotional:** God told the exiles something counterintuitive: put down roots where I've placed you, even when it's not where you expected to be. Build houses, plant gardens, seek the welfare of the city—because when it prospers, you prosper. God has planted you in a specific local church community for such a time as this. This isn't about casual attendance; it's about investment. When you truly root yourself—serving, tithing, praying, building relationships—you become like a tree planted by streams of water. Your stability and fruitfulness impact everyone around you. The dangerous church emerges when believers stop church-hopping and start putting down roots, committed to the community God has called them to until He says otherwise.

**Reflection Question:** Are you invested in your church community, or just attending?

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## **Day 4: Carrying Each Other's Burdens**

**Reading:** Galatians 6:1-10; James 5:13-16

**Devotional:** Kingdom community means no one walks alone through their struggles. When someone is caught in sin, we gently restore them. When someone is mourning, we mourn with them. When someone lacks, we

share what we have. This requires honesty—being real about our struggles instead of pretending we're fine. It requires humility—receiving help when we need it and offering help without judgment. Confess your sins to one another and pray for each other, James instructs. This vulnerability creates accountability that keeps us on track. The world offers professional counselors; the church offers Spirit-filled brothers and sisters who will stand with you, pray for you, and carry your burdens until you're strong enough to stand again.

**Reflection Question:** Who can you invite into your struggle, and whose burden can you help carry this week?

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## **Day 5: A Light on a Hill**

**Reading:** Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16

**Devotional:** Jesus declared we are the light of the world—a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. But what good is a lamp under a bowl? The dangerous church shines brightly in an increasingly dark world, not through programs or performances, but through authentic community that reflects Christ's love. When we forgive quickly, serve selflessly, give generously, and love sacrificially, we become a beacon drawing the lost, broken, and lonely to Jesus. This isn't about being weird or offensive—it's about being so radically different in how we treat each other that people take notice. As we become the community God designed, lives are rescued from darkness, addicts find hope, broken marriages are restored, and heaven invades earth.

**Reflection Question:** How is your life and your church community shining as a light that draws others to Christ?

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**Challenge for the Week:** Choose one practical way to deepen community this week: invite someone to share a meal, reach out to someone who's

been absent, offer to pray with someone face-to-face, or confess a struggle to a trusted believer. Let's become the dangerous community God has called us to be.