

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network COMMUNITY

What kind of community do you live in? Do you have strong Christians around you? Are you building up the body of Christ and reaching out to those who don't know Him? This week you're going to focus on the importance of community, remembering that UNITY is the word that completes COMMUNITY.

DAY 1

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

"MY JOB ON MY SET, I BELIEVE, IS TO FIRST JUST LOVE PEOPLE AND GAIN THAT TRUST WITH PEOPLE WHERE THEY KNOW THAT I REALLY DO LOVE THEM AND CARE ABOUT THEIR WELL-BEING, SO THAT WHEN THEY ARE RUNNING INTO PROBLEMS, THEY WILL HOPEFULLY, AT SOME POINT, COME TO ME AND ASK ME, 'WHAT IS YOUR PEACE ALL ABOUT? WHAT IS YOUR COMFORT ALL ABOUT? WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LOVE? WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR TALENTS?' AND I CAN TURN TO THEM AND SAY WITHOUT BLINKING, 'JESUS CHRIST.'"

ZACHARY LEVI

New International Version
James 2:1 & 8-9

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism...If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers."

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Lord, help me to love my neighbor as myself. Help me to love everyone I come in contact with, even if I don't like them, or disagree with them, or don't understand them. Teach me how to love so that I can fulfill Your greatest commandment and build a loving community around me. I don't want to show favoritism, for You say that I am then a lawbreaker. I need Your help to love everyone you put in my path. Amen.

REFLECT: It's easy to show favorites and love some people more than others. In fact, that's expected in our society. We like to hang with people who are rich, famous, have clout or make us feel more important. Reflect on God's perspective on loving your "neighbors." What does it mean to follow a law that says to love literally everyone around you? And if you don't, you are showing favoritism and sinning. Our heavenly Father is very strong about that, so it must be vitally important.

ACT: It's interesting that UNITY is a word within the word COMMUNITY. So, what "neighbor" do you need to choose to love right now in your community? Ask the Lord to reveal that person to you and then do something to show your love, whether you feel like it or not. Remember, this is God's law and you will create unity if you love a tough neighbor!

DAY 2

HELP OTHER PEOPLE

"WHEN FACING THE MAD RELIGIONIST OR
BLIND LEGALIST, WE HAVE NO RECOURSE,
NO PLACE TO STAND, IF WE DO NOT HAVE
FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCES OF HEARING
GOD'S VOICE, HELD SAFELY WITHIN A
COMMUNITY OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN
CHRIST WHO ALSO HAVE SUCH
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S PERSONAL
DEALINGS WITH THEIR OWN SOULS."
-DALLAS WILLARD

New International Version

Ephesians 4:12-13

To equip God's people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up,
until we all reach unity in the faith and in
the knowledge of the Son of God and
become mature, attaining to the whole
measure of the fullness of Christ.

DAY 2

PRAY: Heavenly Father, would You equip me for Your work, so that I can be used by You to build up the Body of Christ in my community? I want to attain unity with the Christians around me, and share my knowledge of the Son of God to the non-believers around me. Thank You for this verse that reminds me of Your command and thank You for equipping me. Amen.

REFLECT: Is this verse a reminder for you, personally, to equip others for the work of the ministry in order to build up the Body? Do you first need to be equipped to fulfill the task? Or are you already doing it and can now pray for others to join you in unity? Ponder this verse, and ask the Lord to reveal His knowledge to you, in order to fully understand what it means.

ACT: As you reflect on this verse, what conclusion did you come to? If you aren't equipped yourself or you want to help equip others, then you might want to learn how. It could help to read "How To Talk About Jesus Without Freaking Out" to learn how to share your faith, gain the knowledge of the Son of God, and build up the body of Christ. Make it a priority to equip yourself so you can equip the saints. (The book includes a 6 week Bible Study guide and can be found on Amazon.com)

DAY 3

TOGETHER WE ARE CHRIST'S BODY

"THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN YOU MAKES
ALL THAT HE IS AVAILABLE TO OTHERS."

-HENRY BLACKABY

New International Version

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each
one of you is a part of it.

DAY 3

PRAY: Lord, I thank You that I am a specific and important part of Your Body and that my community needs me to make it complete. Would You show me what my particular part is in the body of Christ, so that I don't miss anything that You have for me to do, to say, to pray, or to accomplish? I want You to reveal my purpose on this earth and in my city so that I don't miss anything that You have for me in the body, in Jesus' name. Amen.

REFLECT: It's amazing to think that every single person is a part of Christ's body. Reflect on what your part is. Have you thought about what part your family members and friends play in your community? Each Christian you know is a special part of Christ's body, making it whole. And each of us is important, whether it be a tiny screw or the main steering wheel. The body wouldn't work well without each of us doing our part. Don't miss doing what you're meant to do!

ACT: Start a conversation with your Christian friends and family members about each of you being a part of Christ's body. Ask them if they know what their part is, and if they know what your part may be. Ask if the body of Christ you're all in is like a well-oiled machine or a broken-down contraption? What parts need to be fixed to make it run better? What parts are keeping it going? You could be the first one to start building or healing your community.

DAY 4

RUN A GOOD RACE

"I HOPE EVERYBODY COULD GET RICH AND FAMOUS AND WILL HAVE EVERYTHING THEY EVER DREAMED OF, SO THEY WILL KNOW THAT IT'S NOT THE ANSWER."

-JIM CARREY

New International Version

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

DAY 4

PRAY: God, I pray for the Christians and ministries in Hollywood. May each of them fill a place in Your overall plan to bring Your love, hope, salvation, healing, and fellowship into the Entertainment Industry. Bless the efforts of these ministries, and bring fruit from the work of the Christian professionals who minister to their co-workers. Help them bring Christians closer to You, and closer to one another, and help them lead the non-believers to Jesus. May they run with perseverance, fix their eyes on Jesus, and not grow weary and lose heart. Amen.

REFLECT: God tells us that we are ALL surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, so we all need to get rid of everything that hinders our walk and our growth as Christians. We need to be aware that we are being watched. Have you ever thought about the cloud of witnesses watching the visible Christians in Hollywood? It's very difficult to be in the limelight. The Christians there endure great opposition and become weary and lose heart. Have you ever considered praying for them?

ACT: Go to HPN online at <https://hollywoodprayernetwork.org/local-entertainment-ministries/> and pray for the list of active Entertainment Ministries in Hollywood. Pray that they will run with perseverance, bear great fruit, and that the Christians in Hollywood won't grow weary and lose heart. Their community is on the spiritual front lines and they need our prayers.

DAY 5

YOU ARE GOD'S FRIEND IN COMMUNITY

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;
KEEPING TOGETHER IS A PROCESS;
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS."
HENRY FORD

New International Version

John 15:15

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

DAY 5

PRAY: Lord, I want to make sure that I share my faith with the people around me so that I tell others all I know about You. I don't want anyone to be a "servant" of the world, but that they know You as their Master. Would You show me how to be salt and light, to be a good friend, and to be a loving Ambassador to all the people in my community, workplace, and city? I want everyone in my community to "know his master's business!" Amen.

REFLECT: Our culture is very aware of not wanting to treat anyone as inferior. So, it's a challenge to realize that though we don't believe in having or being a servant, God says that anyone who doesn't know what his master is doing IS a servant. Reflect on the truth that we can be both a child of God and a friend of God, and pass on our knowledge of God to others, so that they no longer have to be servants, but rather, they too can be children and friends of God and share in His community.

ACT: Now it's your turn to be able to say to the people closest to you, "All I have known about the Father I have passed on to you." Who do you need to tell that you are a follower of Jesus? Choose one person now and pray about what you might say to him or her. And pray for their heart to be prepared as you open up to them about your "master's business," so that they can know as well!

DAY 6

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

"I'VE WORKED WITH A LOT OF REALLY FINE ACTORS, BOTH ON STAGE AND ON SCREEN. THE LEVEL OF THEIR GAME LIFTS ME UP AND BRINGS THE LEVEL OF MY GAME UP TO THEIRS. ALWAYS. IT'S LIKE A CONSTANT UPGRADE."

-GARY SINISE

New International Version

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

DAY 6

PRAY: Oh Lord, I want to encourage the people around me. I want to build each one up in their faith and let them know how special they are. I pray that I can be a person of encouragement and inspiration to others, both the Christians and the non-believers. Let me share the love I have from You, to everyone in my community, so that I can build them up and empower them with Your truths and Your love. Amen.

REFLECT: Are you an encouraging person or a complaining person? Do you build others up in the Lord, or do you criticize and point out others' wrongs and weaknesses? Do you need to change your attitude, your approach, or your words, so that you will be known as a positive person, full of encouragement and inspiration? Do you need to be more convinced in God's ways and promises so that you can live out this verse? What needs to change in order to be an encourager?

DAY 6

ACT: Choose one person right now to encourage. Once you choose someone, decide if you will call them, text them, write them a love note, or drive over to their house, give them a hug or take them out to dinner. Whatever it is, make it special, and be sure it's for no other reason than you want to build them up and fill them with a dose of great encouragement. Why don't you choose to encourage one person every week with a special effort to build them up and let them know they are loved by you and by God. Choose to be an encourager! It is so much fun, it's an incredible blessing to others, and it pleases God!

DAY 7

THANK GOD FOR COMMUNITY

"I HAVE A GROUP OF PEOPLE, ABOUT 40, IN
A LOCAL CHURCH IN SURREY IN ENGLAND,
WHO PRAY FOR ME REGULARLY."

-CLIFF RICHARD

New International Version

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We always thank God for all of you,
mentioning you in our prayers. We
continually remember before our God and
Father your work produced by faith, your
labor prompted by love, and your endurance
inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAY 7

PRAY: Thank You God for the Christians in my life. I am grateful for each one. I want to lift them up to You and thank You for their work, their endurance and their lives. I want to encourage them and build each one up and ask You to help them to do the same. May I always be a source of inspiration and encouragement to the people I love. And I never want to take for granted the people You have brought to me as a gift. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

REFLECT: What people have you not thought to thank God for? Reflect on the people in your life whom you can be praying for—especially business leaders, community leaders, political and entertainment leaders, and cultural influencers. They need our prayers for faith, love, endurance, and hope. God will prompt you with love and give you endurance.

DAY 7

ACT: Stop and choose three people in your life and three celebrities whom you know or like. Now pray for God to bless their lives, their careers, their families, and their friends. Pray that regardless of what they believe right now, they will come to know that their blessings are coming from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Whether they are friends or strangers, ask God to prompt you to pray for them. By doing so, you are building community and inspiring hope in our Lord Jesus Christ! What a way to end your week.

Check out this video, "[The Hollywood Community](#)" to see that God is real and present in Hollywood!