

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is not just being a part of a great group of loving friends; it's experiencing the grace of God, the love of Jesus, the intimacy of the Holy Spirit, and being a part of others' salvation. This week you will focus on the extraordinary power of living in fellowship with God and with others, and how it can change your life and the lives of all the people around you.

DAY 1

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

"YOU WERE PUT ON THIS EARTH TO HAVE
FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LIVING GOD."

-JUDY HARRELL

New International Version

Deuteronomy 27:7

Sacrifice fellowship offerings there,
eating them and rejoicing in the
presence of the Lord your God.

1 John 1:3

We proclaim to you what we have seen
and heard, so that you also may have
fellowship with us. And our fellowship is
with the Father and with his Son, Jesus
Christ.

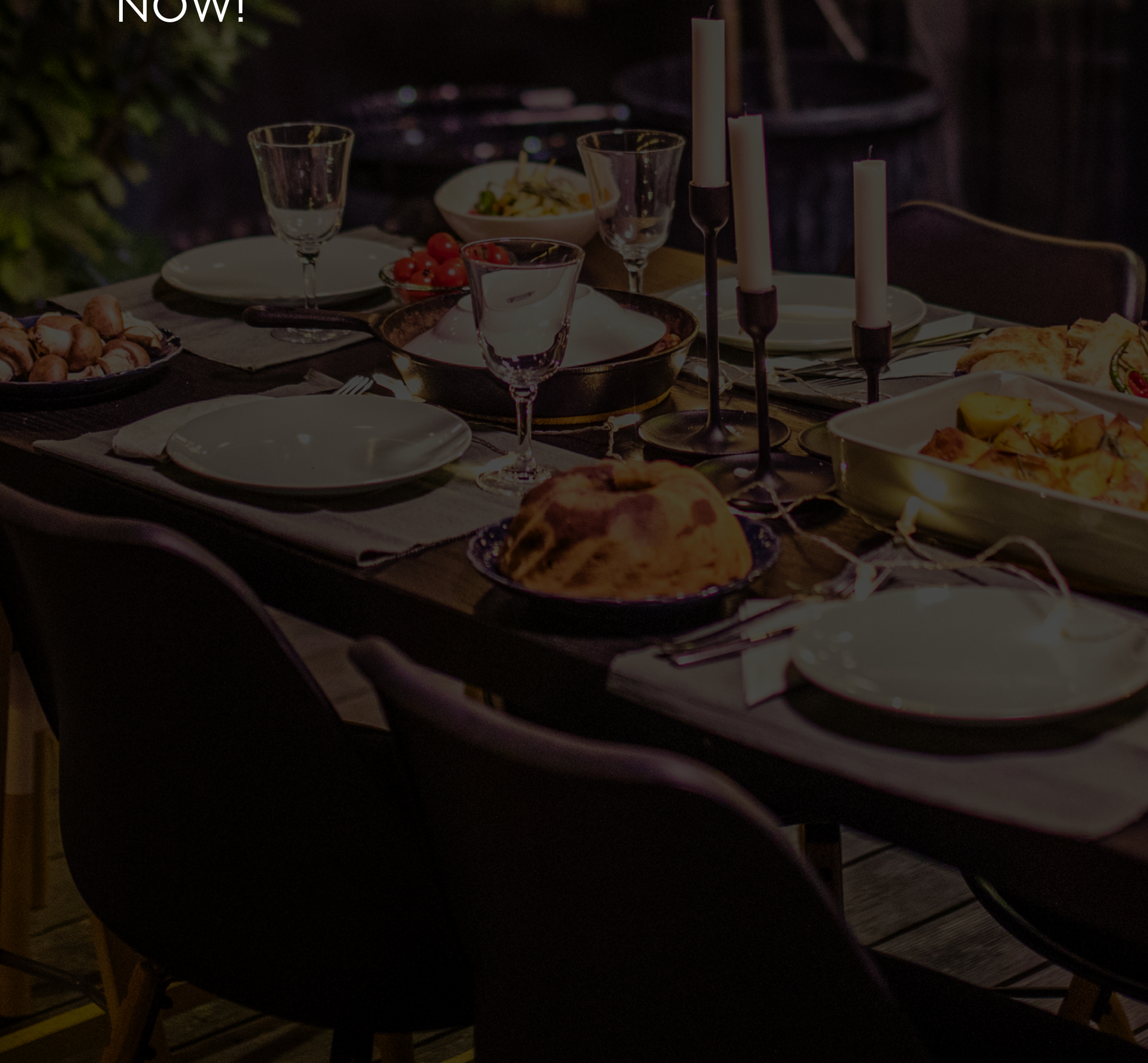
DAY 1

PRAY: Greetings Lord, I come today to seek more intimate fellowship with You. I want to offer You a Fellowship offering, knowing that You are offering me fellowship with You as my Father, and with Your Son. Help me to spend more time with You, to be more open with You and to talk to You more. I want to also be in fellowship with You corporately, with other Christians, so that together we can proclaim to You what we have seen and heard You doing and saying in our lives. Oh, may I feel Your presence in my life every day! Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever thought about why the Israelites sacrificed fellowship offerings to the Lord? We don't have to sacrifice through offerings anymore, but we do need to embrace God's priorities because they are always for our good. And fellowship with the Father, and with the Son, is an incredibly important priority to God. So, in what ways can you make fellowship with Him more important in your life? And how can you have richer fellowship with other believers? You can't be a lone ranger as a Christian. We need to be in fellowship!

DAY 1

ACT: Fellowship, as defined in the dictionary, includes eating together, spending time together, building relationships, and depending on one another during both good and bad times. To develop better fellowship with God, start now to bring Him into all your thoughts, your words, your actions, and your activities. Our goal is to be in 24/7 fellowship with the God of the Universe! And then to be in fellowship with others who have the same priorities. Eat and rejoice in the presence of the Lord! Start NOW!



DAY 2

INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP

"IT GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN TO GIVE AN IMAGE OF ONESELF THAT IS ANYTHING LESS THAN PERFECT, AND MANY CHRISTIANS IMAGINE THAT THEY WILL BE REJECTED BY OTHERS IF THEY ADMIT TO ANY FAULTS. BUT NOTHING COULD BE MORE DESTRUCTIVE TO CHRISTIAN KOINONIA (FELLOWSHIP) THAN THE COMMON PRACTICE TODAY OF PRETENDING NOT TO HAVE ANY PROBLEMS."
-RAY C. STEDMAN

New International Version

Judges 20:26

Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

DAY 2

PRAY: Dear Father in Heaven, I thank You for giving us friends and family to live life with. I realize that I need fellowship in order to feel loved, to gain perspective and wisdom on issues in life, and to experience compassion and camaraderie as I laugh, cry, hurt and sing together in community. Please show me how I can be better in fellowship with others, whom I should weep and fast with, and how we can be more unified as the body of Christ. Amen.

REFLECT: In reading Judges 20:26, it shows the vulnerability of the Israelites as they sat weeping and fasting together before the Lord. Notice how they got through difficult times together. They didn't face life's struggles alone, but they had corporate praise and worship. Do you have healthy fellowship with your friends, family, work associates, and neighbors? Do you walk through life in fellowship? Do you spend intimate and corporate times with God? If not, what do you need to do to create the fellowship that God intends for you?

DAY 2

ACT: God created us with one purpose: Relationships – with Him and with others! Think about the times in your life that you got through because you could cry with others, fast with others, or just come before God with other people. Are you vulnerable enough to share your life in fellowship with others? If so, praise God for that and choose to intentionally spend more time in intimate fellowship with other believers. If not, start NOW to open up more with the people you trust whom God has put in your life so that you can create richer, deeper fellowship with others and more times of vulnerable fasting, prayer and sacrifice in community.



DAY 3

FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS

“OUR LOVE TO GOD IS MEASURED BY OUR
EVERYDAY FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS AND
THE LOVE IT DISPLAYS.”

-ANDREW MURRAY

New International Version

Psalms 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when
brothers live together in unity!

Mark 3:25

If a house is divided against itself, that
house cannot stand.

DAY 3

PRAY: Jesus, it is so hard to live in unity. It's so hard to live in peaceful loving fellowship. I can't possibly do it without You. Would You help me to love the people around me, so that I am never the one to cause division, but to be the one who brings people together, with wisdom and peace. I know the difference between good and pleasant unity and a house that is so divided it cannot stand. May my house with my family, and fellowship with my Christian and pre-Christian friends never be divided. Let me be good and pleasant and always live in unity. Thank You for giving me what I need to live in loving fellowship. Amen.

REFLECT: God warns us all through the Bible, how we will suffer when we don't live in fellowship with Him or with other people. And just as often, He tells us how He will bless us when we love one another and live in peace and unity. So, why can't we do that? What is your part in living in unity and not division? Are you consciously helping to bring unity and love into your home and your community? Or could you possibly be the cause of a divided home? Are you divided from anyone right now? What might you do to heal that relationship?

DAY 3

ACT: Right now think of one person in your life whom you are not in good fellowship with. Regardless of whether it is your fault or theirs, choose to take a step toward peace and even reconciliation. Take action in order to live in unity and not be divided. Remember that a house divided cannot stand. Choose to step outside of your comfort zone in order to experience how good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity. Now is the time!



DAY 4

FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"A HABIT OF DEVOUT FELLOWSHIP WITH
GOD IS THE SPRING OF ALL OUR LIFE, AND
THE STRENGTH OF IT."

-HENRY EDWARD MANNING

New International Version

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

DAY 4

PRAY: Loving Father, I love this prayer from 2 Corinthians that clearly defines the work of the Trinity in us. I see that true fellowship comes from God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all working together in our lives. I pray this prayer for people all over the world. Today I pray this prayer for the people in Hollywood. May You draw them to You and bring them together as a loving community, through the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I pray this in Your name. Selah, Amen.

REFLECT: Oswald Chambers said "Prayer is not preparation for the greater work, Prayer is the greater work." Reflect on how you could change the world by praying this prayer of grace, love, and fellowship over the people in Hollywood who are creating our culture. If they experience the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, they will live changed lives. And when their lives change, the content they create will change! Asking the Holy Spirit to touch people, and inviting the Trinity to come into people's lives, makes an eternal difference. Do you believe you can change the world by praying this prayer for others?

DAY 4

ACT: Write down two names of decision-makers or celebrities in Hollywood and then say 2 Corinthians 13:14 out loud as a prayer. Would you commit to saying this prayer over those two people every day for the rest of the week? Know that as you pray for the perfect and powerful Trinity to come upon them with grace, love, and fellowship, you are changing their lives forever! And, you are working together in partnership with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to transform others. WOW!



DAY 5

FELLOWSHIP FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

"OUR LOVE TO GOD IS MEASURED BY OUR
EVERYDAY FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS AND
THE LOVE IT DISPLAYS."

-ANDREW MURRAY

New International Version

1 Thessalonians 5:12 & 15

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those
who work hard among you, who are over
you in the Lord and who admonish you...
Always strive to do what is good for each
other and for everyone else.

DAY 5

PRAY: Dear Jesus, You have set up the perfect plan as You tell us to live in fellowship with one another. Thank You that You do it not only to supply love and comfort for us, but You supply accountability through fellowship as well. Help me to live in unity with others and that I would allow others to admonish me, if needed. Also, help me to acknowledge those who work hard, to hold people in the highest regard in love, especially my boss, my superiors and those who admonish me. And help me to always do what is good for others, so that my whole community will experience beautiful, Christ-centered fellowship. I pray this in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

REFLECT: Did you ever consider that God has put us in fellowship with others so that we will hold one another accountable? And did you realize that it goes both directions? We are told to hold others accountable for their wrongs, sins, and mistakes, but we also are to allow others to hold us accountable as well. Do you respect those who work hard among you, including your pastors, spiritual leaders, superiors at work and even those who admonish you? That's what's needed for beautiful, godly fellowship.

DAY 5

ACT: In order to truly live in fellowship, choose today to be extra patient with one person in your life who frustrates you, annoys you, treats you unkindly, or outright drives you crazy. Practice godly fellowship by being visibly patient with that person. And not because they deserve it, but because God tells you to “always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.” Reach out to or pray for that one difficult person. You’ll be glad you did!



DAY 6

FELLOWSHIP FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

"THE FELLOWSHIP OF TRUE FRIENDS WHO
CAN HEAR YOU OUT, SHARE YOUR JOYS,
HELP CARRY YOUR BURDENS, AND
CORRECTLY COUNSEL YOU IS PRICELESS."
-EZRA TAFT BENSON

New International Version

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one man
sharpens another.

DAY 6

PRAY: Oh, God, this verse is hard for me. Iron sharpening iron is uncomfortable, it hurts, and it's extremely intimate. I understand this concept in theory, but I'm crying out to You now to show me how to live this out in reality – both by being willing to sharpen a fellow believer and by allowing other believers to sharpen me. In seeking true, godly fellowship I have to learn to do this and I need You desperately. Please make me a sharpened sword. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever thought of this verse in light of Fellowship? After reading it a few times, you will find that in order to allow two Christians to “sharpen” one another, you must know each other, trust each other, and be close enough to allow each other to speak the truth, in love. That's true fellowship and in time it will also make you both more Christ-like. That seems worth pursuing.

ACT: Start practicing true fellowship by choosing a close friend to approach with the challenge to purposely allow you both to sharpen one another spiritually. Have a conversation about how that would look, practically speaking, and then set out to become two sharpened swords. You could do that through honest conversations, through committed prayer, or both. Choose to pursue this challenging, possibly uncomfortable, but beautiful fellowship with another believer in Jesus, today.

DAY 7

FELLOWSHIP FOR SALVATION

"WHEN A CHRISTIAN SHUNS FELLOWSHIP
WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS, THE DEVIL SMILES.
WHEN HE STOPS STUDYING THE BIBLE, THE
DEVIL LAUGHS. WHEN HE STOPS PRAYING,
THE DEVIL SHOUTS FOR JOY."

-CORRIE TEN BOOM

New International Version

Acts 2:42, 46-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

DAY 7

PRAY: Father God, I want to devote myself to others and be a good witness so that I can lead others to You. I want to invite people over to my home, break bread with them and love others with a glad and sincere heart. Help me to praise You and enjoy the people around me so that pre-Christians will notice the fruit in my life and want that for themselves. Lord, may my life of healthy fellowship daily add to the number of those who are being saved. Amen.

REFLECT: Remember, God has humans on this earth for one reason: Relationships. Our whole goal is to build our relationship with Him and then to build Christ-like relationships with other people. That's it. This verse is one of many in the scriptures where God tells us we will watch people being saved, not by convincing them to believe in Jesus, but by living a Christ-like life of loving relationships, with gladness and praise to God, and in fellowship and love with other people. It's not up to us to change others, it's up to us to love God and love people. Then other people will get saved. Reflect on this: if we do that, the Lord will add to our number daily those who are being saved. Don't you want to be a part of that?!

DAY 7

ACT: As the last day of this week focuses on Fellowship, would you commit to the Lord to change your life priorities so that #1 is to LOVE HIM and #2 is to LOVE OTHERS. Living out these two goals will not only give you deep, loving relationships with others in beautiful fellowship, but it will bring others to commit their lives to Jesus and change the world!

