

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

*24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**Acts 2**

*42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

**TEACHING**

Teaching shapes a community. The church is a household. A pillar and buttress of the truth. The truth that we come around in teaching and the truth we live shapes who we are as a people.

- We are hearers AND doers
- Hearers by actually being together. Listening. Taking notes. Asking questions.
- Doers by putting it to action. Asking others for help.

**Hebrews 5:12-14**

*12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

**2 Timothy 4:2-4**

*2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

**Not a buffet, but it is a feast.**

**1 Timothy 4:16**

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

## **FELLOWSHIP**

*Koinonia - participation, partnership, communion, sharing*

### **Expectations of members and our church:**

1. Serve (Talent)
2. Gather on Sundays (Time)
3. Participate in a home group (Time)
4. Give (Treasure)

#### **Serve**

##### **1 Peter 4:10**

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:*

#### **Gather on Sundays**

Contributor vs. Spectator

##### **1 Corinthians 14:26**

*26 What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Everything is to be done for building up.*

#### **Participate in a Home Group**

\*See attachment - List of One Anothers

#### **Give**

**What we do with our money reflects what is on our hearts.**

##### **1 Timothy 6:10**

*10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

##### **Matthew 6:21**

*21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### **Acts 4:32-35**

*32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.*

### **Four important principles in this passage:**

1. They saw themselves as belonging to each other
2. Needs were known
3. Sacrificial gift was given
4. Leadership was involved

### **Three Challenges for the church:**

#### **1. Give systematically (tithes)**

- It preceded the law of Moses. (Gen. 14:17-20)
- The people of Istr
- Tithing is not a law, it is a principle.
- We see the church making collections and doing it regularly - *on the first day of every week.*

#### **1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)**

*2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*

#### **2. Give generously (offerings)**

#### **2 Corinthians 8:3**

*3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord,*

#### **3. Give joyfully**

#### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

## **BREAKING BREAD**

*46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,*

### **1 Corinthians 11**

*23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

### **Words to think about during Communion:**

Give thanks

And remember

Together

## **PRAYERS**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,*

*Your kingdom come,*

*Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

### **Questions to consider:**

1. How does being gathered together lead to unity and maturity?
2. Of the four areas mentioned today, which one did you feel most challenged by and why?
3. Of the four expectations of members of our church (under fellowship), which one do you need to put action towards? What is the next step for you?

### **Resources:**

The last page of this handout was compiled by Shawn Maze as a resource to the church. You can detach and fold and put in your Bible for easy reference.