



## Building Community: Learning from the Early Church

Nov 2, 2025

What does it truly mean to be a church community that reflects Christ? This powerful message takes us back to Acts 2, where we discover the early church wasn't just a weekly gathering—it was a living, breathing community that shared life, faith, and purpose together. We learn that building authentic community starts with three essential foundations: devotion to God's Word, genuine fellowship that goes beyond surface-level friendships, and committed prayer that unites our hearts. The early believers didn't just attend services; they shared meals, met in homes, prayed together, and carried each other's burdens. In our modern world of isolation and division, we're challenged to ask ourselves: Are we helping build this kind of community, or are we standing on the sidelines? The beauty of this message is that it's not about doing more—it's about going deeper. When we commit to knowing each other authentically, studying Scripture together, and praying for one another, we become more than attendees. We become a family bound by love, truth, and grace. The early church was so attractive that God added to their number daily. Imagine being part of a community so unified and loving that people are naturally drawn to Christ through us.

01.

How does devotion to Scripture as a community differ from individual Bible study, and what unique benefits does corporate engagement with God's Word bring to our spiritual growth?

03.

The early church shared everything they had, including property and possessions. What would sacrificial generosity look like in our modern context, and what holds us back from practicing it?

05.

The sermon asks, 'Am I helping build this community or am I standing on the sidelines?' How would you honestly answer this question about your own participation in church life?

07.

The early church was so attractive that 'the Lord added to their number daily.' What would need to change in our church for this kind of magnetic witness to occur today?

09.

What would it look like if we thought about Christ's sacrifice for us every time we sat down to eat, as the disciples likely did after the Last Supper?

02.

In what ways can we move beyond surface-level pleasantries to create genuine fellowship that reflects the deep spiritual connection described in 1 John 1:7?

04.

How does praying together as a church community break down barriers and align our hearts in ways that individual prayer cannot?

06.

What specific fears or insecurities prevent you from opening up and sharing your heart with others in the church, and how might you overcome them?

08.

How can we maintain unity in the Spirit through the bond of peace when we inevitably face differences of opinion or conflict within the church community?

10.

In what practical ways can you strengthen your connection with others in the body of Christ this week, moving from passive attendance to active community building?

### Remember...

“When we pray together all of a sudden we're united under God's authority. A praying church is a united church. And when we pray for each other and with each other, barriers break down and our hearts align.”