

# Walking the Way of the Kingdom: Putting into Practice the Way of Jesus

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Session 5 – Community

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

– Acts 2:42–47 (ESV)

The people around you matter. Let’s go back and reference the Triangle of Transformation.

Narrative. Practices. Community.

Why is community important?

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in



every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:11–16 ESV)

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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.” (Hebrews 10:24–25 ESV)

**The Class Meeting** - How is it with your soul?

Are there people in your life who know everything about you, especially the things that you are most ashamed of?

What kind of vocabulary is needed in order to talk about your soul?

**Notes:**

Next week:

- 1) Write down what your serving and evangelism practices look like. Don't be embarrassed: this is for you to start as a baseline.
- 2) Write down what you would love for your serving and evangelism practices to look like. Ask “What are the reasons for that gap? Are there things I could do or not do in order to reduce the gap?”
- 3) Spend some time journaling around these questions: how much do serving and evangelism practices affect my understanding of reality and identity? Is it deepening my intimacy with God? What is the biggest obstacle to fasting? How will I go about overcoming that obstacle?