



NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

"Our Heart is People, Our Message is Jesus"

Table Group Discussion Questions

Series: Words We Thought We Knew

Title: "Fellowship"

Icebreaker / Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

1. Describe a moment when you felt genuinely on the outside of a group — the cafeteria moment, the party where you didn't know anyone, the room where everyone else seemed to belong. What did that feel like?
2. What's the difference between a group of people you *attend* something with versus people you actually *belong* to? Can you think of an example of each from your own life?

Digging into the Scripture & Sermon (15-20 minutes)

Read together: **Acts 2:42, Romans 12:4–5, Philippians 1:3–7, and Acts 4:32–35**

3. Acts 2:42 says the early Christians devoted themselves to *both* the apostles' teaching *and* fellowship — content and community together. Why do you think it's so easy to prioritize one over the other? What gets lost when we have teaching without fellowship, or community without teaching?
4. Romans 12:5 says we are members of *one another* — not just members of the same organization. That's a much more intimate claim. What does it actually mean to belong to the people in this room, not just alongside them? What does that require of you that merely attending doesn't?
5. Paul says in Philippians 1 that his joy comes from their *partnership in the gospel* — and that whether he's in chains or free, they share in God's grace with him. What does it mean that your commitment to this community gives you a share in what God is doing through others, even when you're not directly involved?
6. Acts 4 describes a community where *there were no needy persons among them* — because people gave according to what others needed. What would it take for a community to actually get there? What has to change in us before that becomes possible?

Personal Reflection (15-20 minutes)

7. The sermon described three ingredients of fellowship — **participation** (experiencing life together), **partnership** (accomplishing something together), and **contribution** (bringing something to the table). Which of those three is most natural for you right now, and which one is the growing edge?
8. The sermon named two very real barriers to genuine fellowship: **consumerism** (treating church like a product to sample) and **treating church like a brand** (choosing based on cool factor or reputation). Be honest — have you fallen into either of those patterns? What does commitment to *one* community cost you that shopping around doesn't?
9. The sermon ended with a distinction between a safe space and a secure base — one that protects you and one that launches you. Which one have you been looking for from this community? What would it look like to shift from here I am to there you are?

Action & Follow-Up (15-20 minutes)

10. The sermon offered two sets of questions for going deeper with each other. Try one of them right now in your group. Either ask: "*How is it with your soul this week — really?*" Or ask each other: "*Where have you said yes to God lately, and where have you said no?*" Give everyone space to answer honestly before moving on.
11. Think about your actual level of commitment to this community right now. Are you participating, partnering, and contributing — or are you mostly attending? Pick one specific, concrete way to move one level deeper before the group meets again. Name it out loud so someone can follow up.
12. The sermon mentioned that partnership eventually spills beyond the walls of the church into the neighborhood. This week, pay attention to one person outside your normal circle — a neighbor, a coworker, someone you pass regularly — and practice the *there you are* posture. Come back and tell the group what you noticed or what happened.

Close in Prayer

The sermon ended with small circles praying over each other. Do the same to close your group time. In pairs or threes, take a moment and ask: "*Lord, what do you see when you look at this person?*" Then pray what comes — a scripture, an image, a simple word of encouragement. It doesn't have to be complicated or dramatic. Even "*Lord, I pray that this person knows how delighted you are in them*" is enough.

Close together by reading **Ephesians 2:19–22** aloud — the reminder that you are not strangers, you are fellow citizens, built together into something God himself is constructing.