

BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

In Genesis 2:18, God said, "it is not good for the man to be _____."

God is a _____-Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We too were created _____ community and _____ a community.

Key Question: What do I do to develop healthy _____ with others?

Key Idea: I fellowship with Christians to _____ God's purposes in my life, in the lives of others and in the world.

Key Verse: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to _____ to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to _____ together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and _____ 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." (Acts 2:44-47)

(Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to keep your relationship with _____ strong.

(Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to keep your relationships with _____ strong.

(Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to _____ God's will on earth.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?

- I have close relationships with other Christians who have influence on my life's direction.
- I participate in a group of Christians who really know me and support me.
- I allow other Christians to hold me accountable for my actions.
- I daily pray for and support other Christians.

Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea

1. In what ways is it "not good for man (a person) to be alone"?
2. In a world where people are becoming more isolated and self-centered, what can be done to nurture a vibrant others-focused community?
3. What is or could be an adversary of biblical community? In other words, what in our lives or culture impedes the success of healthy, attractive, faith-based community?
4. What simple steps could this group take to enhance and/or develop more connection with God, each other and non-believers?

Read Acts 2:42-47 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.

1. In what ways has your church experience been similar to what you just read? How has it been different?

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2. Is the type of community you just read about possible today? Discuss why you believe it is or why it is not.
3. If community is something we desperately need, why are so many people of faith content to live lifestyles of isolation?

OTHER PASSAGES

Genesis 2:4-25	Eph. 2:11-22; 4:2; 5:21	Eccl. 4:8-12
Acts 2:1-4, 42-47	Exodus 25:1-9; 40:1-35	John 13:1-17
Acts: 4:32-37	1 Cor. 16:19	2 Chron. 7:1-3
Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-26		Galatians 5:13; 6:2
Neh. 2:11-3:32; 6:15	1 Thess. 5:9-11	Heb. 10:19-25; 13:1-3, 15-16
Rom. 12:4-5, 12:10; 13:8; 15:5-7, 14; 16:3-4		
1 John 1:1-7; 2:7-11; 3:16-18; 4:7-21		

CLOSING PRAYER

PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 17: Spiritual Gifts and/or read the following passages

1 Sam. 16:1-23	Daniel 2:1-47	John 14:15-31	Acts 2:1-21
Romans 12:4-8	1 Cor. 12:4-13:13	Matt. 25:14-30	1 Peter 4:7-11
Eph. 4:1-16			

Then, answer the following questions:

1. What was Daniel's spiritual gift? Why was it important that Daniel acknowledge his gift was from the Lord?
2. The Holy Spirit now takes up residence in all who believe in Jesus. We are the new temple of God. Jesus called the Holy Spirit our "advocate." What do you think that means to us?
3. As you read the passages from Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12, write down which gift(s) you believe you possess. Choose a family member or friend and do the same for them. Let them know what you think their gift is and how you have been positively impacted by it. What happens when spiritual gifts are exercised without love? Why is it so important to be driven by love when using our spiritual gifts?
4. The Bible compares the church to a body. Collectively, we are the body of Christ. Individual believers are compared to parts of the body that all work together to accomplish what needs to be done. Can you recall a time when one part of your body was injured in some way and how this affected the whole body? How does this analogy work in regard to the church?

Key Verse: "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us." (Romans 12:4-6)

Key Idea: I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

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Personal Application

1. How would this practice express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who used his or her spiritual gifts?
3. What is impeding your ability to know and use your spiritual gifts? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to discover or better use your spiritual gifts?