



***Living in Community
Pastor Dave Patterson 09.14.2025***

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Acts 8:4]

But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

[Acts 4:29-31]

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus. "After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness and all the believers were united in heart and mind.

[Acts 2:44-47]

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate 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.

“Revival, which means an awakening, a recovery, a bringing back to life that which was seemingly dead, is a work of God’s spirit among His people. But what we currently call revival is simply New Testament Christianity, it’s the saints getting back to normal”

-Vance Havner

“As the world becomes more and more artificial and virtual the Church must become more human, authentic and relational”

-Carry Newhoff

[Ephesians 4:16] (TPT)

For his “body” has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect (mature) in love.

1. Spiritual growth happens in the context of community, not isolation

- Forgive one another
- Accept one another
- Care for one another
- Encourage one another
- Live in harmony with one another
- Submit to one another
- Restore one another
- Greet one another
- Do not Judge one another
- Serve one another
- Be kind to one another
- Honor one another
- Carry one another’s burdens
- Love one another

2. Community is where we discover Holy Spirit partnerships that enable us to reach our full potential

3. Community is where we find our “seat at the table”

Key Points:

- 1. Spiritual growth happens in the context of community, not isolation***
- 2. Community is where we discover Holy Spirit partnerships that enable us to reach our full potential***
- 3. Community is where we find our “seat at the table”***

Applications for the Week:

The early church was marked by radical generosity and consistent gathering. Is there a practical way you can be more generous with your time, resources, or personal giftings, to others in our community this week?

Discussion Questions:

- 1.** According to Acts 2:44-47 what were some of the daily practices and attitudes of early believers as they lived in community?
- 2.** In Acts 4:29-32 what did the believers pray for in the face of threats and persecution, and what was the result of their prayer?
- 3.** What actions did the father take when the prodigal son returned home in Luke 15, and what does this reveal about the father's heart?
- 4.** Pastor Dave described the early church as being united in heart in mind. What specific behaviors or choices contributed to this unity?
- 5.** The early church responded to persecution with greater unity and boldness rather than fear. Why do you think adversity often brings believers closer together instead of driving them apart?
- 6.** Pastor Dave highlighted the difference between cultural Christianity and true discipleship in the sermon. What are some signs that someone is living as a New Testament believer rather than just identifying as Christian?
- 7.** The "One Another" commands us to love, forgive, encourage, serve, etc. This is only possible in close community. Why is it so difficult to live out these commands in isolation?
- 8.** The sermon challenged us to be bold in our faith. What is one area in your life where you feel called to take a bolder stand for Christ? What might that look like this week?