

groups.

— Notes | August 31, 2025

Real, Authentic, Vulnerable, Holy Spirit–Driven community.

If you pass by any school playground, you will probably see kids playing hide and seek. Kids love trying to hide by themselves and truthfully sometimes their hiding spots are pretty good. Those same kids turn into adults and the hide and seek turns into hiding in plain sight. We can be surrounded by people but alone. We can have best friends that don't really know our struggles. Finding people is easy, but being known requires vulnerability. Whether you're new to following Jesus, or you've been following him for fifty years you need His people. As the apostle Paul might say, "Never travel alone."

Key Scripture | Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who 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.

Related Scriptures

— Psalm 126:3

Icebreakers:

— Q: When you want to celebrate with friends or family, what is your go-to restaurant? Why?

Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Getting into genuine Spirit-driven community requires vulnerability.

Q: Do you have friends you can turn to and talk to about your faith?

Q: Do you feel like you are able to encourage your friends when they are struggling in their own walks with Christ?

Q: Why do you think it's important to have Christ centered friendships?

II. It's easy to feel stuck in our faith, but God provides people to help us get unstuck.

Q: It's easy to give "Sunday School" answers about the things you struggle with. Let's take a moment to get real. What is something in your life you have recently struggled with? Do you think a Godly community could help you break free from that?

Q: Have you experienced a good work from God through others?

Q: People are sinful, and it can be hard to be vulnerable with others. How do you approach Christ-centered forgiveness with your friends?

III. Belonging and freedom are rooted in Jesus and His People.

Q: Crowded isolation is defined as being surrounded by people, but no one really knows you. Which do you prefer- crowded isolation or vulnerable community?

Q: Christian self-reliance believes that you and Jesus can solve things all on your own. How does this go against what God wants us to have in Holy Spirit Driven community?

Q: Is there anything in your life that makes it difficult to trust that God will provide authentic relationships for you? Name one practical way you can begin to work through that.

Get Practical

There are so many ways that you can become proactive about finding community, but let's start with the most important: start praying for your community. If you have people that you are in Christ centered friendships with, thank God for them and continue to hold it up in prayer. If you don't have those people, start praying for them. Confess to God that you have been struggling with self-reliance or crowded isolation. You can also reach out to your small group leader, your campus pastor, or go to 12stone.com/groups and find a GROUP to join so that you don't have to face this alone any longer!