



# The Fellowship

*“One of the most beautiful phrases repeated in the Scriptures is “They will be my people, and I will be their God.” In our modern culture, we tend to consider things from an individualistic viewpoint instead of a corporate one. We are more focused on “I” than “we.” This early church pressed into Biblical Community and early spiritual disciplines as a body, not merely as individuals. It wasn’t merely that the individual people studied, prayed, and broke bread. They did these things together. How might we reorient our minds to be more communal and less individualistic? What might our world look like if the church lived as a community rather than a gathering of individuals?”*

## **INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:**

Practice saying aloud the memory verse in its entirety. CJ will buy donuts for any LifeGroup that memorizes the entire passage by the end of the Fellowship series (you’re going to hear it enough times that it probably will happen by accident).

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

**Acts 2:42-47**

*“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who*

*believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

#### **Acts 2:42**

*“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

#### **Jeremiah 24:7**

*“I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.”*

#### **Jeremiah 31:33**

*“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

#### **Jeremiah 32:38**

*“And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”*

#### **Ezekiel 11:19-20**

*“And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”*

#### **Ezekiel 37:23**

*“They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.”*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. The corporate gathering of disciples devoted themselves to many things as a community. In the western world, we tend to view our religious beliefs and practices as private and personal instead of communal and community-oriented. Why do you think that is?
2. From this whole passage (Acts 2:42-47), what do you think the modern church could/should look like if it desired to have the kind of impact on the world this early church had? What would you change? How might we change it?
3. Who do you do life with? Who knows the sin you're struggling with? Who prays for you? If you're reluctant to pressing into this type of a relationship with fellow believers, why? What holds you back?
4. What stands out to you about the phrase "They shall be my people, and I will be their God?"

**CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:**

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

