



We share faith. Let me say that again. We share faith. Because we share Christ. And the most visible place where that is put on display is in the church assembly. *It's what the word means.*

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker idea:

Read over the "Twelve Steps" and the "Twelve Traditions" for Alcoholics Anonymous. Consider how much these remind you of the way "church" is described in the New Testament.

<https://www.aa.org/twelve-steps-twelve-traditions>

**LESSONS FROM COVID.** Read **Hebrews 10:23-25**. (1) Being forced to stay isolated and inside proved difficult for us. We learned that we need each other; that community is essential. Think back to the days of COVID and discuss ways that you learned to appreciate this truth. (2) We also learned that, for many, assembling together as a church was merely optional. Many would attend games and go shopping, but gave excuses for avoiding church. Discuss this phenomena. How does **Hebrews 10:23-25** relate to this?

**LEARNING FROM OUR REASONS & EXCUSES.** Read **1 Cor. 10:16**. Reason #1: Church is not about assembling together. Response: church, by definition, actually involves assembling together. Reason #2: We must allow for extenuating circumstances. Response: Exceptions quickly and easily become the rule or norm. Reason #3: Technology provides virtually the same experience. Response: Technology must not be used to destroy community. Discuss these arguments and the responses given.

**WHAT FELLOWSHIP IS.** Read **Romans 15:26; 2 Cor 8:4; Phil 1:5; 3:10; Philemon 6**. Fellowship means to "share in" or to "participate." In the New Testament, Christian fellowship is more than food. It involves money, goods, services, evangelism, faith, and even suffering. Discuss how all-encompassing "fellowship" is.

**FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.** Read **1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 13:14**. What does it mean to "participate" in the life of God, or to "share in" life with God? Discuss.

**FELLOWSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.** Read **Matt 18:15-17; 1 John 1:3, 7**. According to Jesus, Christians are deeply involved in each other's business. The community of Christ is one that shares in or participates in each other's life. Discuss what this should or could mean for you and your faith community.

**AA & THE CHURCH.** Philip Yancey was told "the one quality missing in the local church that you find in abundance at AA" is "Dependency." How does avoiding physical presence in life together a failure to appreciate "dependency"?