



We were designed for community. In community, we find acceptance, belonging, accountability, and challenge. And in community, we practice obedience and holy habits for unleashing God's Holy Spirit.

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:

- (1) Describe your "best friend group" when you were young or in college. What was so great about having a group like that?
- (2) Why are we "better together"?

DESIGNED FOR COMMUNITY. Read **Genesis 2:18-25**. How does the story of the first community (Adam & Eve) show that we were made to be together? Read **Ephesians 5:22-32**. How is the story of the first community (Adam and Eve) a model for Christ and the church? Read **Revelation 21:1-5; Isaiah 11:6-9**. How is the story of the first community (Adam and Eve) a model for God and his people in the new creation? Discuss how we were designed to "be together" with each other, and with God.

WE FIND ACCEPTANCE. Read **Isaiah 56:1-8**. How does this passage provide hope for those who feel marginalized or outcast? Did you ever feel this way, or know people who did? How does Christian community provide acceptance?

WE FIND BELONGING. Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**. Discuss the three reasons why 2 is better than one. How does Christian community prove this to be true?

WE FIND ACCOUNTABILITY. Read **Hebrews 10:24-25**. Why do we need accountability? What does it mean to "provoke" each other? How does this help us enjoy the abundant life?

WE FIND CHALLENGE. Read **Colossians 3:11-15**. How is the church supposed to be radically diverse? Why is this hard? Read **Galatians 2:11-14**. How are we supposed to live in community with people we otherwise may not like, be friends with, or even associate with? How does Christian community challenge our thinking, habits, assumptions, and beliefs?

WE ENGAGE IN FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE THAT UNLEASHES GOD'S SPIRIT. Read **Acts 2:42-46**. According to this, what are signs that a community belongs to Jesus? How is participating in Christian community a way to let God's Spirit be at work? In what ways do we quench the Spirit of God by failing to act like a community?