

(1) An Opening THOUGHT

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [who meet] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”

- A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

(3) Key POINTS

Community killer #1: PRIDE.

Our kingdom response: HUMILITY.

Community killer #2: SIN.

Our kingdom response: CHARACTER.

Community killer #3: UNFORGIVENESS

Our kingdom response: FORGIVENESS

Community killer #4: GREED

Our kingdom response: GENEROSITY

(2) Read the TEXT Together

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

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Do you have questions or comments about this resource?
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GROUPS RESOURCE

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO HELP GROUPS FOLLOW JESUS TOGETHER

(4) Looking to the WORD

Read Acts 2:42-47 if you haven't already. Take some time to talk as a GROUP about what the early church was doing. Camp out on some of these key words: devoted, filled, together, everything in common, give, glad and sincere hearts, the Lord added to their number daily.

- What especially stands out to you about the way they lived?
- What impact do you think it had on those around them?

(5) Looking at our WORLD

Jesus said, ³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35, NIV). Our relationships with each other demonstrate to the world Who we belong to. When people see how we respond to each other, it starts to be pretty evident whether or not we're actually following Jesus.

- Think about the friends, family, neighbours, coworkers, or classmates that you have who don't yet follow Jesus. What do you think they're looking for? What impact has your or others' relationship(s) with them had? Has the way you have treated them or the way they've seen you treat others increased or decreased their openness to Jesus?

(6) Looking at our LIVES

Read 1 Peter 4:8 and 1 Peter 2:17.

- How are you doing at loving the family of believers?
- If you're willing, share about the community killer (from the points above) that you struggle with most.
- If you're willing, talk about the kingdom response that God has been growing in you.
- What are things you need to confess in the area of relationships? Are there people you need to have loving, gracious conversations with? Are there people you need to forgive?

(7) Looking AHEAD and PRAYING Together

Here are this week's On-Ramps:

- Ask God to speak to you about how it's going for you in these areas: humility, character, forgiveness and generosity.
- Put a high personal value on Sunday gatherings, and make a choice to grow in love for your church family.
- Get involved in a triad, a GROUP or some other form of intentional Christian community beyond Sunday morning.
- Seek to be a person of welcome, with eyes open to including others.

In what ways might you take action on these? Include this in your prayer time.