

FELLOWSHIP

You were formed
for God's family

SESSION 3

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CATCHING UP

- Which of these statements is most true of you?
 - a) I squeeze my relationships into my schedule.
 - b) I plan my relationships into my schedule.

MEMORY VERSE

*"You are members of God's very own family...
and you belong in God's household with every
other Christian."*

Ephesians 2:19b (TLB)



Watch the video
lesson now and
follow along in your
outline.

FELLOWSHIP

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God doesn't just want you to know and love him, he also wants you to know and love his family.

"That family is the church of the living God."

1 Timothy 3:15b (NCV)

"(God's) unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

"But all who received (Jesus Christ), to them – that is, to those who trust in His name – He has given the privilege of becoming children of God."

John 1:12 (WNT)

"I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove the world that you are my disciples."

John 13:34-35 (NLT)

The number one reason God wants us to love each other is so the world will see our love and will want to become a part of God's family too. God wants us to love each other because other people's eternal destinies are at stake.

The Four Levels of Fellowship

- The Fellowship of _____ Together

"All the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other."

Acts 2:44 (TLB)

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage on another..."

Hebrews 10:25 (TEV)

"Open your homes to each other, without complaining."

1 Peter 4:9 (NCV)

When you let people into your home, you let them into your life. You can't learn to love people if you're always shutting them out.

- Share your _____

"When you gather... each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight... Take your turn, no one person taking over... and you all learn from each other."

1 Corinthians 14:26-31 (MSG)

- Share your _____

"Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."

Romans 12:15 (NKJV)

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- The Fellowship of _____ Together

God wants every one of us to belong to a church family.

"You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

Ephesians 2:19b (TLB)

Being a Christian is more than just believing – it's belonging. Without a church, you don't have a spiritual home.

"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Romans 12:5 (NIV)

"The person who loves God must also love other believers."

1 John 4:21 (GW)

"Love your spiritual family."

1 Peter 2:17 (MSG)

- The Fellowship of _____ Together

"We are partners working together for God."

1 Corinthians 3:9a (TEV)

"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together."

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NCV)

"The whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

The Fellowship of _____ Together

"Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2 (NLT)

When you serve together, you do your part, but when you suffer together, you share your heart.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together."

1 Corinthians 12:26a (ESV)

"Be devoted to each other like a loving family."

Romans 12:10a (GW)

"We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters."

1 John 3:16 (NLT)



Discovery Questions



- If true wealth were measured by the depth of your relationships, how wealthy would you be?

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

- What could you change in your schedule that would give you more time to build healthy relationships?

- What does your level of involvement in your local church say about your love for God's family?

- How can you help cultivate the characteristics of fellowship in your church and your small group?



Living with Purpose

- **Service Project:** Let's focus on the fellowship of serving together. Take a few minutes to discuss a service project your group can do together. This could be a project at your church, or an opportunity for your group to help a church family or individual in need. Begin making plans to complete this project in the next three weeks.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Provide meals for a family in need.
- Visit a church member in the hospital or who is a shut-in.
- Take on a maintenance project at our church such as painting, landscaping, or re carpeting.

- Other: _____

We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word. This section of the study contains application exercises that will help your group apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week for this material.

Choose a volunteer to coordinate this project for your group.



Diving Deeper

- Read the Memory Verse on page 20 every day this week as part of your daily devotions. See if you can have it memorized before your next group meeting.



Prayer Direction

- Pray for your small group's Living on Purpose Service Project.
- Pray for your group's prayer requests. Be sure to record their requests on the Small Group Prayer and Praise Report on page 70.