



REFLECT:
(20 minutes minimum)

8. **What are some aspects of church life we need to look at in order to truly strengthen church fellowship?**

9. What are some practical steps we could take to let the world know that our congregation is a place where people...
 - ✓ Listen to one another?
 - ✓ Help one another?
 - ✓ Practice forgiveness and reconciliation?
 - ✓ Overcome cultural barriers that divide people?
 - If our congregation was doing those things in a significant way, how much would we have to advertise that it was occurring? How much would word spread without publicity?

10. **How many of your close friends are in the Laurel church? Why?**

11. What is good about church friends? What is good about friends outside the church?

Find a guest at services next week and invite them to be a part of our Life Group. When we see the need for Christian community, we will want other Christians to be a part of it as well!



March 28, 2010

Growing in...#2

GROWING IN COMMUNITY

VARIOUS TEXTS

OPEN:

(2 minutes)



1. Which of the following activities would you rather do with friends? Which would you prefer to do alone? Mark those you prefer to do with friends with an "F" and mark those you prefer to do alone with an "A."
 - Eating lunch or dinner
 - Watching television
 - Going to a sporting event
 - Fishing
 - Driving on a long trip
 - Worshipping God
 - Shopping

2. Pick one of the activities you said you prefer to do with friends. What is the most important quality you look for in someone with whom to do this activity?
 - Similar interests
 - Easy to talk to
 - Good sense of humor
 - Empathetic
 - Nonjudgmental
 - Someone in can be myself with
 - A good listener
 - Strong moral values.

DIG: 
(20 minutes)

Read Acts 2:42-47

3. **What is biblical fellowship? How does the idea of “fellowship” as displayed in Acts 2:42-47 compare with the idea of “fellowship” as many modern churches understand it?**

4. How could love for one another be part of teaching the world to love Jesus?

5. What is the biggest challenge about Christians loving one another?

6. When have you experienced a fellowship like these believers had together?

- With a group of high school friends
- With a group of college friends
- At a retreat where everyone got really close
- With a group of friends from church
- With friends from work
- Never
- Other _____

7. **Which of the factors present in this story is most important to you in developing fellowship with other believers? Rank them in order from “1” (most important) to “5” (least important):**

- Devotion to common teaching and belief (v.42)
- Praying together (v.42)
- Caring for each other’s physical, emotional and spiritual needs (v. 44-45)
- Regular, common worship that includes praising God (v.46-47)
- Doing everyday things together, like eating and being in each other’s homes (v.46)



Easter Sunday:

Next Sunday is Easter and we know many people will be traveling. We need to discuss who will be here next week and who won’t so we can make appropriate plans.