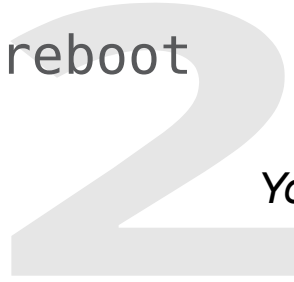


reboot



Fellowship

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:39 (Jesus is repeating Lev. 19:18)

First Third

15 Min *How are you?*

15 Min *Evaluation: What has become of the goals from the last meeting? Be honest and encouraging.*

10 Min *Vision*

Second Third

10 Min *Worship*

15 Min *Learning from the Book of Acts. Share with each other: What did you learn from Acts 1-4? What is the Holy Spirit teaching you? Use your filled out worksheets for the Book of Acts.*

15 Min *New lesson: Now give each participant a copy of this worksheet.*

The Problem of Fellowship

Many people misunderstand the true meaning of fellowship. They assume it means:

- merely being in the same room together
- playing together and having lots of fun
- having sentimental feeling toward one another

This definition of fellowship is common among believers. Churches have “fellowship” after their services, meet in the “fellowship hall,” and have “fellowship dinners.” This kind of fellowship may mean nothing more than togetherness, socialization, and fun.

Unfortunately, this results in shallow relationships because it does not require any form of accountability. Often we don't know what is really happening in the lives of others or what they are struggling with. To make matters worse, this comfortable type of fellowship can take priority over reaching those who do not know Jesus. Believers develop a pattern of social interaction with their Christian friends, and they may enjoy it so much that they may never get around to sharing the Good News with people who are far from God.

Our Heavenly Father challenges us to think differently about fellowship. The Bible word for fellowship is “koinonia” which is better translated partnership or cooperation.

Three levels of fellowship

1. Fellowship begins with seeing other believers as part of God's family.

Ephesians 2:19: _____

2. Fellowship is demonstrated by serving others.

Mark 9:35: _____

3. Fellowship requires personal sacrifice.

Read 1 John 3:16-18.

Jesus says in John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” The word “love” is used a lot in this world but often the meaning of it stays vague. Here we can see what God's understanding of “love” is.

First this seems tedious. But when we decide to go these steps together with others, then a bunch of people is growing into a strong fellowship, into a team where you can count on each other, into a group of real friends which are even stronger connected than a family.

When disciples are accountable to one another and work cooperatively toward a common goal they achieve this “koinonia”, a true sense of fellowship or partnership in the Kingdom. They grow even closer when they suffer together from the aggression of a common enemy.

? In Acts 1-4, how did believers live these three levels of fellowship? What were the results?

Third Third

5 Min **My personal goals until next time:**



Use your people list, pray and set your personal goals

Inspired from the study of Acts or from this lesson I want to obey God next week in this point:

I will share my story with God with _____ .

I will study Acts 5-8 and write down what God is teaching me (using the *Acts Worksheet*)

I will train _____ just as I have been trained

I will pray for the people on my list every day

35 Min *Practice and prayer: Take time to pray for each other.*

Suggestion: One is going into the middle, sharing his goals and other issues he wants prayer for. The rest of the group prays for him and listens to God to encourage him. Continue until everybody has been in the middle.

Other idea: Take time to confess sins in front of each other and ask God for forgiveness.