

- 5) What analogies does God use to illustrate a group of Christians?
  - a. Romans 12:4-5
  - b. 2 Timothy 2:4
  - c. Galatians 6:10
- 6) What would happen to a young child that left his family and tried to make it alone, or to a leg that separated itself from the body, or to a soldier that went out to meet the enemy without the rest of the army?
  - a. child –
  - b. leg –
  - c. soldier –

How can you apply these illustrations to your life?

## WHEN?

- 1) What are we warned against in Hebrews 10:25?
- 2) According to Hebrews 3:13, how often does God want us to fellowship with, encourage other believers and work together to bring others into fellowship? (also Acts 2:46 & Acts 5:42)
- 3) What will be the result if we neglect the command about fellowship in Hebrews 3:13?
- 4) What practical steps can you take to pursue fellowship and encouragement from other Christians in your city, neighborhood, job or school?

### Personal Application

- 1) What do you think the Lord wants you to remember most about this study?
- 2) What changes in your life do you think should be made as a result of these Scriptures?

### Memorize and think about:

“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” -Acts 2:42

## Fellowship

No soldier could ever win a battle if he was all by himself. Even if he had a machine gun and the enemy had only rocks to throw, he would eventually lose when he ran out of ammunition. In the same way, no Christian can survive spiritually without the constant support and protection of other believers in Christ. You are the person you are today because of the family you were around as you grew up. Who you spend your time with is probably the single most important factor for growth. So don't be surprised if Christians who understand this call you and invite you or invite themselves to hang out. Let's take a look at what the Bible says about the subject of fellowship.

What would you say is the difference between an acquaintance, a friend and a close friend?

## WHO?

- 1) Consider Proverbs 13:20
  - a. How can you be a wise person?
  - b. What will happen to a person who makes unbelievers or Christians still led by their old nature his or her closest companions?
- 2) Think carefully about 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
  - a. What is the warning?
  - b. Why should we not be bound together or closely united with unbelievers?
  - c. What command does God give us concerning unbelievers?
  - d. Who will be your closest friends and companions if you obey this command?
- 3) According to 1 Corinthians 15:33, what can you be absolutely assured of if you make unbelievers your closest friends?
- 4) In 1 Peter 4:3-5
  - a. What things does God want us, as His children, to avoid?
  - b. What response can you expect from unbelievers and even backsliding Christians when you refuse to participate in these things?

- 5) Consider 1 Corinthians 9:19.
  - a. What should be our purpose in being with unbelievers?
  - b. How do you see this purpose affecting your closest friends?
- 6) David, the second king of Israel and known as a man after God's own heart chose his close companions by what criteria? Psalm 119:63
- 7) When you look at Acts 2:42-47, with whom did the Christians in Jerusalem spend their time and what did they experience?
- 8) How do you think the verses in the preceding questions apply to the following areas of your life?
  - a. With whom you live?
  - b. With whom you spend your time?
  - c. With whom you eventually may marry?
- 9) Pray through Proverbs 13:20 and memorize it.

## WHAT?

Faith is taking action on what we read from God's Word. We grow in our knowledge of Christ when we take action on what we read from God's Word. When we read we should look for an Attribute of God to praise, Promise to claim, Example to follow or avoid, and/or a Command to obey. The book of Acts shows us examples of people who grew closer to God. It also shows us examples of people who didn't take their relationship with Christ and His church seriously so we know what to avoid.

- 1) When the foundation was laid down and people believed, according to Acts 2:42, what were four things the Christians in Jerusalem did when they came together?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
- 2) What other words or phrases describe someone who is continually devoting themselves to something?
- 3) How often and with what intensity did they do these things?
- 4) When they did this what did they experience? Acts 2:43-47

- 4) Consider Romans 12:10. What is one characteristic of the relationship that God wants us to have with other believers?

## WHERE?

- 1) When you read the following verse, where did the Christians in the New Testament often assemble?
  - Romans 16:5
  - 1 Corinthians 16:19
  - Colossians 4:15
  - Philemon 2
- 2) Look at Acts 20:20. Where did Paul meet with and instruct the Christians at Ephesus?
- 3) Sometimes a "church building" can prove very helpful. At other times it may not be necessary. In the NT, the word "church" means "a called out gathering." It never referred to a building. According to this definition and the verses in the previous two questions, does a fellowship of believers have to have a church building to be a church?

## WHY?

- 1) What is one major factor for healthy spiritual growth that can come only as you constantly unite with other Christians?
  - Philippians 3:17
- 2) What needs to change so that you begin a lifestyle of following a mature Christian's pattern of life?
  - a. attitudes?
  - b. actions?
- 3) There are many spiritual qualities that you can never learn unless you are committing yourself to regular fellowship with a group of Christians. According to John 13:34-35. What is one of them?
- 4) How can you take steps to love other Christians as Christ loved His disciples?