

# “(un)common”

week #1

## INTRODUCTION

At New Life Church we experience God in a variety of settings. Most of us attend one of the weekend services. There we worship together, hear the preaching of God’s Word and enjoy fellowship for about 90 minutes. But that is not the only place we can experience God.

Throughout the week we have opportunities to join with others in fellowship gatherings, in service projects, and in small groups and classes to study God’s Word and to pray for one another. God has called us to be part of a unique body of believers. If we limit our connection to 90 minutes on Sunday we miss out on the richness and spiritual growth available to us. This week we begin a study of the life in the uncommon community of believers found in the book of Acts.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

What small groups of people do you have a special connection with?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Isolated events or sustainability**

#### **Q1. Read Acts 2:1-4, 14, 41, Acts 2:42-47**

It is easy to become so focused on a big event, (e.g. a wedding), that we miss attending to the important issues it relates to, (e.g. a marriage). The same can be true in our spiritual lives. In the Acts 2:1-4, 41, what were some of the “big events” that took place? But the disciples didn’t devote themselves to seeking more big events. What more important matters did they devote themselves to in Acts 2:42-47? Which of these things can only be done together? What are the benefits of pursuing these things with others rather than alone?

### **Your 5-year plan**

#### **Q2. Read Proverbs 13:20; Ecclesiastes 4:9**

Most of us plan to be alive in 5 years. You probably also hope to grow in your relationships with friends and family, to grow spiritually, and to survive the challenges you’ll face during that time. What might you consider your top three life goals (challenges, priorities...) for that period? How can your connection to a supportive, caring group of believers have an impact on achieving those goals?

## Finding Community

### **Q3. Read Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 17:7-8; Acts 2:46-47; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

God’s plan has always been community-minded NOT individually-minded. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 we find examples as to why we are better together than alone. Can you give an example of a time when you have been part of helping (or being helped) to pick someone up after they have “stumbled” spiritually? What generally makes it difficult to ask for help when we stumble? What is one thing that might make it easier?

## Wrap-Up

There are things in the Christian life that are transformational. Being a part of a community of believers is one of those things. As we find in the second chapter of Acts, the new church gathered to devote themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship and prayer. Although big events draw a lot of attention, the real growth in a Christian’s life happens in sustained commitment with care and support that comes from being a part of a small authentic community. The life God calls us to have in common with other believers is truly something uncommon.

## Memory Verse

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

*Acts 2:42-47 ESV*

## Prayer (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:*

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## Challenge:

*Do you know someone who needs to be connected with other believers? Consider asking them to join your group.*

