



Key References:

Acts 2:41-42

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

1 John 1:7

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Corinthians 12:14

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

Romans 15:1-2

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.”

What’s the closest friend you ever had, and what commonality about your lives put you both together like that?

1 – DEFINING DISCIPLESHIP

What should discipleship look like? Discipleship in our society today is similar to the word, ‘apprenticeship’. **What is an apprentice?** Share some practical examples of apprenticeships in our world today. **What can we learn from these examples? How does this apply to our participation in discipleship? What should discipleship *not* look like?**

In Acts 2:41-42 three thousand people get saved and they devote themselves to four things. **How has fellowship cultivated discipleship in your life?**

2 – FELLOWSHIP & ‘KOINONIA’ [Greek: κοινωνία]

How could we “break past the veneer” & cultivate *deep* relationships in this group that result in real discipleship to Jesus happening?

How does fellowship have a much richer meaning than just community? What does it mean to be devoted to fellowship?

Why does ‘church hopping’ kill our best chances of growing in deep fellowship with one another? Why do people ‘church hop’?

Do you have an “inner circle” like Jesus did with Peter, James & John? How can you, and how long does it take to cultivate these?

3 – OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

How is fellowship broken? Discuss specifically the effects and dangers of offence, and the danger of becoming offended. **How does the enemy use offence to separate believers from one another?** Andy referenced Proverbs 18:19 & Proverbs 19:11.

What are the specific negative effects of each of these barriers?

(i) Consumerism & Individualism; (ii) Comfort-Driven Mindset; (iii) Lack of Margin & Busyness; (iv) Isolation & Technology

Read 1 John 1 and reflect on how having a grace filled fellowship with God now allows us to have grace filled fellowship with each other.