

## Group Meeting

### Welcome!

Welcome to Session 16 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

#### VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 16, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- In Genesis 2:18, God said, "It is not good for the man to be \_\_\_\_\_."
- God is a \_\_\_\_\_ — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We too were created \_\_\_\_\_ community and \_\_\_\_\_ a community.
- Key Question: What do I do to develop healthy \_\_\_\_\_ with others?
- Key Idea: I fellowship with Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ God's purposes in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world.
- Key Verse: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to \_\_\_\_\_ to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to \_\_\_\_\_ together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and \_\_\_\_\_ together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:44–47)
- (Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to keep your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ strong.
- (Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to keep your relationships with \_\_\_\_\_ strong.
- (Key Application) Fellowship with other believers to \_\_\_\_\_ God's will on earth.

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**GETTING STARTED**


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*Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.*

**KEY VERSE:** "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:44–47)



**KEY IDEA:** I fellowship with Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the lives of others, and in the world.

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**GROUP DISCUSSION**


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*As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?*

- I have close relationships with other Christians who have influence on my life's direction.
- I participate in a group of Christians who really know me and support me.
- I allow other Christians to hold me accountable for my actions.
- I daily pray for and support other Christians.

*Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.*

1. In what ways is it "not good for man (a person) to be alone"?
  
2. In a world where people are becoming more isolated and self-centered, what can be done to nurture a vibrant others-focused community?

3. What is or could be an adversary of biblical community? In other words, what in our lives or culture impedes the success of healthy, attractive, faith-based community?
  
4. What simple steps could this group take to enhance and/or develop more connection with God, each other, and non-believers?

*Read Acts 2:42–47 (see the section "The New Community" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.*

1. In what ways has your church experience been similar to what you just read? How has it been different?
  
2. Is the type of community you just read about possible today? Discuss why you believe it is or why it is not.
  
3. If community is something we desperately need, why are so many people of faith content to live lifestyles of isolation?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Lauren began to follow Christ as a teenager after a close friend invited her to her church's summer camp. Not growing up in a religious family made her feel far behind in her faith. So, she immediately began to read every Bible study she could find. Lauren's faith soared as she learned more about herself and the character of God.

Ten years have passed and she still reads her Bible daily and attends the worship services at her church, but she feels as if something is missing; that she has hit a spiritual plateau and doesn't know what to do to change it.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Lauren? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the Believe church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your Believe journey in one place.

Journal writing area with horizontal lines for notes.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

alone / community / for, as / relationships / accomplish / give, meet, ate / God / others / accomplish