

**SCRIPTURE AND
KEY SERMON NOTES:**

**CORE VALUE: COMMUNITY
BUILDING**

We believe that faith grows best in community! We will go out of our way to live in community through GC Groups, serving on teams, and whatever else we can do to do life together because nothing grows our faith and is more fun than serving Jesus with people you love.

**FAITH GROWS BETTER IN
COMMUNITY! (ACTS 2:43-47)**

Faith Community is God's Design (Heb 10:24-25)!

1. **Adam & Eve** – God didn't leave Adam alone. (*Genesis 2:18*)
2. **Abraham's Blessing** – "Father of many nations," not just one person. (*Genesis 12:2-3*)
3. **Moses & Jethro's Advice** – Leadership requires shared burdens. (*Exodus 18:17-21*)
4. **Ruth & Naomi** – Community provides strength in hardship and deep commitment. (*Ruth 1:16-17*)
5. **David & Jonathan** – Community strengthens and protects. (*1 Samuel 18:1-3, 23:16*)
6. **Esther & Mordecai** – Community fights for each other, advocating for justice and standing in the gap. (*Esther 4:14*)
7. **The Early Church** – Saved people always find each other and invite others in. (*Acts 2:42-47 + ALL OF ACTS! And NT!*)

*"God never saves people into isolation
—He saves them into community."*

**THE PROBLEM: MANY DO CHURCH,
BUT DON'T GET COMMUNITY (Acts
2:44 & 1 Cor 12:12, 21)**

1. Cultural disadvantage compared to 1st century church
2. Thriving Church Amenity Syndrome
3. Unrealistic Expectations
4. Withdraw when we should press in

**THE SOLUTION: BE THE FRIEND
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR (Acts 2:46 &
Romans 12:10)**

"We call this having an "I gotchu" mindset."

START PRAYING:

Father in Heaven, thank you for this thriving faith community around me. Guard our relationships with you and one another. Help us to foster these relationships well, and in a way that continues to grow over time. Help us to navigate life in a way that draws us to do life with you, with them in Gospel-centered fellowship, friendship and family time. Do this in a way that makes this prayer, in this moment, something that we live out for decades to come. In Jesus' name, amen!

START TALKING:

What's your favorite group activity, besides church and GC, of course? ;-)

START THINKING:

Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud.

What stands out to you about the **early church community** in this passage?

How do you see **joy and generosity** woven into their relationships?

What impact did their strong community have on **new believers and outsiders**?

What is the context leading up to this passage and how does that impact our reading of their togetherness?

What are ways that Restore and/or other churches you've been to model the good qualities you see in the Acts 2 church?

Without indulging in a critical spirit toward churches you've attended, what are some ways *the Church* could better model the Acts 2 church environment?

START SHARING:

What challenges keep people from **experiencing deep Christian community today**? Work through the list from Sunday and add to it if you come up with additional ideas. Part 2: As a group write a brief summary of each of the challenges on your list to ensure everyone understands them.

What are ways to overcome these challenges and to protect a strong sense of Christian community?

Which of these obstacles have you personally struggled with? And how did you overcome them, personally?

How have strong Christian friendships made a difference in your faith journey?

Why is "being the friend your looking for (aka the "I gotchu" mentality)" a healthy way to solve these issues while also modeling the spirit of the Acts 2 church?

What is one thing you can do to grow in your "I gotchu-ness" as a member of your faith family?

START DOING:

Look around your group and assure one another with a sincere "I gotchu!" As a group take note of the people around you and make a mental note to live this out with them.