

4 Talks: Fellowship

Form close relationships with true followers of Jesus, for support and encouragement



A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"Relationships with friends provide support and encouragement."*
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"This is also true in the Christian life."*

hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Hebrews 10:24–25
Acts 2:42–47 (story)
Acts 1:12–15 (story)
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Hebrews 10:24–25 — These verses tell us, as Christians, to get together often to encourage one another.
Acts 2:42–47 — This illustrates the daily close fellowship the early Christians enjoyed after coming to Christ. They were very loving and committed to one another, and enjoyed each other's company. (You may have used this three sessions ago in [4 Talks – Apply](#).)

- Acts 1:12–15** — This records that right after Jesus ascended into heaven the eleven disciples, and many others, met together frequently for prayer and mutual encouragement.
- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:
What do you think this passage teaches us?
What can we learn about God or our response to God?
How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Relationships with friends provide support and encouragement"?

apply that to life

- State the main lesson: *"Form close relationships with true followers of Jesus, for support and encouragement."* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
What can keep us from forming close relationships with other Christians?
What is one action you can take this week to begin to overcome those barriers?
- Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.
- Tell them how they will be helped by the next four sessions. See the [Dashboard, "4 Ministries"](#).

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

connect

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ **Hebrews 10:24–25**
 1. *What are some benefits of getting together with other believers?*
 2. *How have you experienced the benefits of friendship in a Christian context?*
Note: This ties into the connect discussion on friends providing support and encouragement.
- ☐ **Acts 2:42–47**
What are some evidences in this passage that the new believers were relating to one another often and well?

Acts 1:12–15

- 1. *What did the believers do shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven?*
- 2. *Why do you suppose they met together?*
Note: Make the point that your Essentials group meets regularly, in part, to provide support and encouragement for your group members. You might even want to talk about how the group is doing.

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print [Fellowship Mini Journal](#).

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.