



HOPE Church Summer 2020 Life Groups – week 10 study guide

Sunday's service on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/hopecclb/videos/vb.1661395687475869/355609822466965/?type=2&theater>

This week's message reminds us that the pursuit of intimate fellowship with God and being in community with other Christians should be passionately pursued by all believers.

Pastor Keith provided us with Scriptural insight into being in community with one another. He reminded us that we were not designed to live our lives alone but rather to come together and belong to God's family – a community we know as the church. He indicated that God wants each of us to be actively *engaged* in His Word, with others, and involved in His church. The church itself is not simply an *institution* or a *service* but rather a group of people – a *community* – with a purpose: a passion for Jesus and a passion for one another. After all, Jesus died for people because, *His church is people!* We know that we are called to love God and others and the purpose of the church – the goal of being in community together – is to enable each of us to become all that God created us to be. We are called into selfless relationships with others as opposed to looking out for our own needs being met. This is because, as Christians, we are trusting God to meet our needs. Through Scripture, our pastor gave us three core principles of being in community to discuss. Read through each of these principles and the related scriptures together in group and discuss your perceptions regarding each of them. The questions posed below are intended to promote conversation but feel free to expand upon them as you explore this important topic: Community.

1. We are created to have relationship with God first and then others.

Mark 12:28-31: 28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that He answered them well, asked Him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "**The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** There is no other commandment greater than these."

What do you think it takes (e.g. on a daily basis) to live out what Jesus states above in verses 29 through 31? How are you personally living out?

2. God created the need for a Christ-like community called the church.

Acts 2:40-47: 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls 42 and they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

How does this report of the early church's formation compare with how we practice church today? What feelings does this passage invoke within you regarding church? Based upon this passage, what can we, as believers, do together at Hope to build a stronger sense of community?



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3. Community in Christ starts with a Higher calling and standard.

John 13:34-35: 34 “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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus went to the cross and took on our sin-debt thereby providing us with the path of restoration to our God. How can we imitate His example living out fellowship in our local church? What are specific behaviors we need to embrace to enable a strong and healthy community in our church? What is the one behavior that you struggle with the most?

Other relevant verses of Scripture to consider:

Romans 8:13 – 13 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God

Colossians 3:12-15 – 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philippians 2:3-4 – 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

1st Peter 1:22 – 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart

John 15:12-13 – 12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”

- All Scripture taken from the ESV

This is the last week of Hope summer life groups. We pray that you found the messages and the group fellowship helpful in your own walk with our Lord. Please take the time to fill out the Life Group Feedback Form in your Participant Guide and mail it to:

Hope Church

- c/o Keith King

1429 Clark Avenue, Long Beach CA, 90815

Hope Church's Core Values

1. God's word is the catalyst for life transformation
2. We are to build people with purpose.
3. Full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer.



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4. *Christ-like love develops unity in the body (and is lived out through service within the church and to the world. Life change happens best in a community)*
5. *Every believer is a minister with a ministry.*
6. *Excellence honors God and inspires people.*
7. *We are called to restore the unchurched.*
8. *We are called to fearlessly change our world for Christ.*