

FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY

WHERE PEOPLE CONNECT

We exist to...

To Connect people to God
To Connect people to People
To Connect people to the Community

Session #1

DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY

CLASS 201

**WELCOME TO
DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY #201**

We're glad you signed up! This class is the second of FLCV's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other, you must first attend Discovering Church Membership #101 before taking this class.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

*"... that you may **become mature** Christians and may fulfill God's will for you."*
Col. 4:12b (Ph)

"We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ..."
Eph. 4:14-15 (Ph)

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

We will focus on the **Four Basic Habits** every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will ...

- Equip you with the **skills** you need to begin these habits
- Explain the **tools** you need to continue these habits.

WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL MATURITY"?

"...In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity - the measure of development which is meant by 'the fullness of Christ.'" Eph 4:13(Ph)

Spiritual Maturity is BEING LIKE CHRIST

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC

"You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life ... He's still a baby Christian!" Heb. 5:12-13 (LB)

2. IT IS A PROCESS

"Learn to be mature." Prov. 8:5 (GN)

"Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (GN)

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE

*"Take **the time and the trouble** to keep yourself spiritually fit." 1Tim. 4:7b (Ph)*

"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." (1 Tim 4:7b NASB)

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called _____

2. I cannot be a disciple without being _____

3. The more disciplined I become _____

4. The mark of a disciple is _____

(Jesus) *"Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27*

5. How often am I to do this? _____

(Jesus) *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me." Luke 9:23*

6. What is involved in "cross bearing"?

_____ to give Christ first place in my life!

FOUR HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE? Developing _____

"... You have **put off the old self** with its **HABITS**, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself." Col. 3:9-10

1. TIME WITH GOD'S WORD

"If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

2. PRAYER

"If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it ... in this way you become my disciples." John 15:7-8 (GN)

3. TITHING

"None of you can be my disciple unless **he gives up all of his possessions.**"
Luke 14:33 (JB)

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always **put God first** in your lives."
Deut. 14:23 (LB)

4. FELLOWSHIP

"Love each other just as much as I love you. Your **strong love for each other** will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 (LB)

HOW TO GET A “GRASP” ON YOUR BIBLE

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone." 2 Tim 3:16-17 (LB)

SIX WAYS TO GET A “GRASP” ON YOUR BIBLE

The Hand Illustration
(On this page trace an outline of your own hand!)

HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*"Faith comes from **hearing** the Word of God." Rom. 10:17*

Ways to Hear God's Word

- The Bible Apps (iPhone or Androids) or the Bible online (Bible Gateway)
- Church services, bible studies.
- Sermon tapes
- Radio/TV, podcasts or YouTube

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING

1. Be ready and eager to hear God.

(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 8:8

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God (Luke 8:4-18)

"Consider carefully how you listen ..." Luke 8:18

- **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- **A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

3. Confess any sin in your life.

*"... **Get rid of** all moral filth and humbly accept the Word..."
James 1:21*

4. Take notes on what you hear.

*"We must pay more **careful attention** to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!" Heb. 2:1*

-- Keep a Spiritual Notebook

5. Act on what you hear!

*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says!**"*
James 1:22

*"Whoever ... does not simply listen and then forget, **but puts it into practice** - that person will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25 (GN)*

HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

*"Happy is the one who **reads** this book ... and obeys what is written in it!" Rev. 1:3 (GN)*

How often should I read God's Word? _____

*"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. **He must read from it everyday of his life** so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands." Deut. 17:19 (LB)*

READING PLAN SUGGESTIONS

1. Read it systematically.
2. Read it in a Bible without notes.
3. Read it in different translations.
For reading: Good News, Living Bible, Phillips
4. Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
5. Underline or color code key verses.
6. Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

*"... they accepted the message eagerly and **studied the Scriptures** everyday ..." Acts 17:11 (Ph)*

*"Be a good workman ... **Know what His Word** says and means." 2 Tim. 2:15*

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is _____.

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to _____.

HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

"Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart." Pr. 7:2-3 (LB)

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. It helps me resist temptation.

"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Ps. 119:11

2. It helps me make wise decisions.

"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. Ps. 119:105

3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.

"... Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!" Ps. 119:49 (LB)

4. It comforts me when I'm sad.

"Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me." Jer. 15:16 (LB)

5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Say the reference **before and after** the verse.
3. Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
4. Break the verse into natural phrases.
5. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
6. Write down the verse and erase a word one at a time.
7. Write out the verse on a flash card.
8. Display your verses in prominent places.
9. Always memorize the verse word perfect.
10. Put the verse to music. Write a song!
11. Get a partner so you can check each other.

HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

*"(Those) who are always **meditating** on His Laws ... are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit ... they never wither and whatever they do prospers." Ps. 1:2-3 (LB)*

Meditation is _____ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

WHY WE SHOULD MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

1. It is the key to becoming like Christ.

"... Your life is shaped by your thoughts." Pr. 4:23 (GN)

*"... Be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind." Rom. 12:2*

*"As we ... **contemplate** the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness ..."*
1 Cor. 3:18

2. It is the key to answered prayer.

*"If you live your life in Me, and my words live in your hearts, **you can ask for whatever you like**, and it will come true for you." John 15:7 (Ph)*

3. It is the key to successful living.

"... Meditate on (the Word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8

SIX WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE

1. **Picture it!** Visualize the scene in your mind.
2. **Pronounce it!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
3. **Paraphrase it!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
4. **Personalize it!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.
5. **Pray it!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
6. **Probe it!** Ask the following nine questions:

S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. Questions

Is there any ...

SIN TO CONFESS?

PROMISE TO CLAIM?

ATTITUDE TO CHANGE?

COMMAND TO OBEY?

EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW?

PRAYER TO PRAY?

ERROR TO AVOID?

TRUTH TO BELIEVE?

SOMETHING TO THANK GOD FOR?

HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD

*"Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice."
James 1:22*

"... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:19

Most applications will focus on one of three relationships.

1. My relationship to _____.
2. My relationship with _____.
3. My relationship with _____.

4 Marks of A Good Application Project

1. **It's** _____.
2. **It's** _____.
3. **It's** _____.
4. **It's** _____.

*"Now that you know these things - **do them!** That is the path of blessing!"* John 13:17
(LB)

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

DEFINITION: "A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer."

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were _____ to have fellowship with God.

"So God created man in his own image ..." Gen. 1:27, 2:7, 3:8

"Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me." Rev. 3:20 (LB)

2. Jesus _____ to make a relationship to God possible.

"God ... has invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Christ our Lord." 1 Cor. 1:9 (LB)

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' _____.

Mark 1:35, Luke 22:39, Luke 5:16

*"Jesus **often** withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*

4. Every person who has been effective in _____ for God developed this habit.

Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.

5. You cannot be a _____ Christian unless you spend time with God!

"Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks." Matt. 4:4
(GN)

"... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12
(NAS)

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your Word." Ps. 119:9
(Mof)

II. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. TO GIVE _____ TO GOD.

"Give to the Lord the glory due to his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness." Ps. 29:2

"(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did ... he did in **a spirit of complete devotion** to his God." 2 Ch. 31:21 (GN)

God deserves our devotion! (Rev. 4:11)

God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

2. TO GET _____ FROM GOD.

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me ..." Ps. 25:4 (LB)

2 Things To Do In A Quiet Time

Consider your way: "Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established." Pr. 4:26 (KJV)

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths." Pr. 3:6 (KJV)

Commit your day: "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will." Ps. 37:5 (LB)

3. TO GAIN _____ IN GOD.

"Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart." Ps. 37:4 (KJV)

"... (God's) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure." Ps. 16:11 (GN)

FACT: The better I get to know Christ, the more _____.

*The objective of your Quiet Time is not to study **about** Christ, but to actually spend time with him!*

4. TO GROW _____ LIKE GOD.

2 Peter 1:3-4 "For as you know him better and better, God will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life. He has promised to save us and to give us His own character."

*"When the council saw the boldness of Peter and John ... they were amazed and realized **what being with Jesus had done for them!**" Acts 4:13 (LB)*

SESSION #2

MAINTAINING HEALTHY SPIRITUAL HABITS

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

TALKING WITH GOD

"Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain THE HABIT OF PRAYER."

Rom. 12:12 (Ph)

HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

(Matthew 6:5-8)

- **BE** _____.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men." (vs. 5)

Don't try to _____.

Don't try to _____.

- **BE** _____.

"But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (vs. 6)

- **BE** _____.

"Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him! (vs. 7-8 LB)

II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US

*Matt. 6:9-15 "This, then, is **HOW** you should pray ..."*

THE SIX PARTS OF PRAYER

1. PRAISE: I BEGIN BY _____

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name .."

TWO KINDS OF PRAISE:

- "ADORATION" - Praising God for *who he is*.
- "THANKSGIVING"- Praising God for *what he has done*.

*"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be **thankful** unto him, and **bless his name**." Ps. 100:4*

HOW TO PRAISE GOD:

1st: As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. (See *Prayer Guide 1 below*)

Prayer Guide 1

Examples:

God is patient	Num. 14:18
God is merciful	Num. 14:18
God is forgiving	Num. 14.18
God knows everything	1 Sam. 2:2
God is loving	1 John 4

The key to prayer is God's character.

- _____ is the basis for answered prayer, making requests.
- God answers the prayers that acknowledge who He is.

Second: Remind yourself and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of his names. (See *Prayer Guide 2*)

Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of his character. You can take each of these 8 names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as affirmations of praise!

PRAYER GUIDE 2 THE NAMES OF GOD

8 HEBREW NAMES OF GOD - DECLARE WHO GOD IS

Jehovah-Shammah- "God is Present with me" (Ezekiel 48:35)
You are here! I am never alone!

Jehovah-Rohi- "God is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)
You lead me and feed me and protect me!

Jehovah-Jireh- "God is my Provider" (Gen. 22:14)
You see what I need before I even ask!

Jehovah-Rophe- "God is my Healer" (Exodus 15:26)
You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!

Jehovah-Tsidkenu- "God is my Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6)
You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

Jehovah-M'Kiddish-" God is my Sanctification" (Lev. 20:8)
You make me holy and like Jesus!

Jehovah-Shalom-" God is my Peace" (Judges 6:24)
You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

Jehovah-Nissi-" God is my Banner" (Exodus 17:15)
You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

2. PURPOSE: I COMMIT MYSELF _____.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ..."

Pray for God's will to be done ... in my family ... my church ... my ministry ... my job ... my future ... my city ... the nation ... the world.

"Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his Service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer." Rom. 12:2 (GN)

3. PROVISION: I ASK GOD TO _____.

*"Give us today our **daily** bread ..."*

What needs can I pray about? _____

*"God will supply **all** your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us." Phil. 4:19 (LB)*

"Since God did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us, won't he also surely give us everything else?" Rom. 8:32

"You do not have ... because you don't ask God!" James 4:2

THE KEY: _____.

4. PARDON: I ASK GOD TO _____.

"Forgive us our debts ..."

4 Steps to Forgiveness

1. **Ask the Holy Spirit _____ every sin.**

"Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me". Ps. 139:23-24

2. **Confess each sin _____.**

"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you." Prov. 28:13 (GN)

3. **Make _____ to others when necessary.**

"When you remember your brother has something against you ... go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God. Matt. 5:23-24 (GN)

4. **By Faith, _____ God's Forgiveness.**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

5. **PEOPLE: I PRAY FOR _____.**

"... as we have also forgive our debtors."

"Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all he is going to do for them. 1 Tim. 2:1 (LB)

6. **PROTECTION: I ASK FOR _____.**

*"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."
(vs. 13)*

Believers face a spiritual battle everyday. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

"The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world." 1 John 4:4 (GN)

THE HABIT OF TITHING
Honoring God With My Giving

"On the first day of each week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Cor. 16:2 (LB)

HOW MY GIVING REVEALS MY SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*"Just as you excel in everything else... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness... see that you also **excel in the grace of giving.**"* 2 Cor. 8:7

WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE

Seven Benefits to My Life

1. GIVING MAKES ME _____.

*God so **loved** the world that **He gave** his only Son ..."* John 3:16

2. GIVING DRAWS ME _____.

"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Matt.6:21

3. GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO _____.

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to **be generous and willing to share.** In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!"* 1Tim. 6:17-19

4. GIVING STRENGTHENS _____.

*"**Trust in the Lord** with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord **by giving him the first part of your income**, and he will fill your barns to overflowing." Prov.3:5,9*

"Give and it will be given to you ... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

5. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT _____.

"... Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity." 1 Tim 6:18-19 (LB)

6. GIVING BLESSES ME _____.

"A generous man himself will be blessed."

Prov. 22:9

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."
Prov. 11:25

"Good will come to him who is generous ..." Ps. 112:5

7. GIVING _____.

(Jesus) *"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."* Acts 20:35

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING

WHAT IS TITHING?

"Tithe" means "a _____ part."

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "TITHE" AND AN "OFFERING"?

- A "tithe" is giving _____ of my income.
- An "offering" is anything I give _____ my tithe.

WHY SHOULD I TITHE? 8 REASONS FROM GOD'S WORD

1. Because God _____.

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30

2. Because Jesus _____.

"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either." Matt. 23:23

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has _____.

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life." Deut. 14:23 (LB)

4. Tithing reminds me that _____ was given to me by God!

"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth." Deut. 8:18

5. Tithing expresses my _____ for the blessings He's done for me.

"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" Ps. 116:12

"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." Deut. 16:17

6. God says that refusing to tithe is _____ from Him!

*"God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings ... Bring your **whole** tithe to My house.'" Mal. 3:8-10*

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove _____ and wants to bless you!

*"Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. **Test me in this**" says the Lord, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out **so much blessing** that you won't have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues." Mal. 3:10*

8. Tithing proves that I _____.

(Jesus) "If you really love me, do what I command." John 14:15

"... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words." 2 Cor. 8:7b - 8 (LB)

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

The _____ part of what I earn, not the _____.

*"Honor the Lord by giving him the **first part** of all your income." Prov. 3:9-10*

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHE?

WHERE I _____.

*"Bring your **whole** tithe to My Storehouse (Temple) ..." Mal. 3:10*

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE? _____.

"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Cor. 16:2 (LB)

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

1. GIVE _____.

"For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have." 2Cor.9:12

*"Each one should give **what he has decided in his heart to give**, not reluctantly or under pressure ..." 1 Cor. 9:7a*

2. GIVE _____.

"... for God loves a cheerful giver!" 2 Cor. 9:7

3. GIVE _____.

*"They gave as much as they were able, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service ..." 2 Cor. 8:3-4*

4. GIVE _____.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously." 2 Cor. 9:6

THE KEY TO GIVING

" ...They first gave themselves to the Lord ... " 2 Cor. 8:5

A COMMITMENT PRAYER

"Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all you've done for me, and in expectation that you will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to you. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

Participating in God's Family

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other." Heb. 10:25 (GN)

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I _____ IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

*"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong to the family of believers.**" Gal. 6:10*

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)*

*"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others!" Rom. 12:5*

2. I NEED _____ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds." Heb. 10:24 (Ph)

"Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break." Eccl. 4:9-10,12 (GN)

3. I NEED _____ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron." Pr. 27:17 (GN)

"Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin." Heb. 3:13 (JB)

*"Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should **restore** him gently ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:1-2*

4. CHRIST IS _____ WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!" Matt 18:20 (GN)

5. THERE IS _____ WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matt. 18:19 (GN)

6. FELLOWSHIP IS A _____ TO THE WORLD.

(Jesus) *"My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind .. so the world will believe you sent me."* John 17:21(LB)

7. I AM _____ TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN

"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other ..." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

*There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a **necessary part of it.**"* 1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)

HOW CAN A CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO BE A PART OF A _____.

*"(They met) day after day, in the **Temple courts** and from **house to house.**"* Acts 5:42

Two Types of Church Meetings:

Large Group: _____.

Small Group: _____.

"Greet the church that meets in their home." Rom. 16:5
Also Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20, 1 Cor.. 16:19, Col. 4:15

At FLCV, we believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?

Acts 2:42-47

1. _____
*"They **DEVOTED THEMSELVES** to the apostle's teaching..."*
2. _____
" ...and to the fellowship ..."
3. _____
" ... and to the breaking of bread ..."
4. _____
" ... and to prayer ..."

"OUR FATHER ... give US ... OUR daily bread ... forgive US ... OUR ... debts ... as WE have forgive OUR debtors ... lead US not into temptation ... deliver US ..." Matt 6:9-13
5. _____
" ... they gave to anyone as he had a need ..."

*" ... you shared with me the **fellowship** of giving and receiving."
Phil. 4:15 (Ph)*
6. _____
" ... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts ..."

*"Get into **the habit** of inviting guests home for dinner or if they need lodging, for the night." Rom. 12:13 (LB)*
7. _____
" ... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."
8. _____
*"And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved."*

Prayer:

Heavenly father, we thank You for these people who've come today, took time out of their schedule to spend a whole morning and afternoon with us. We thank You for Your Word. How practical and relevant it is! I pray that You would help us be committed to make these commitments that would help us grow spiritually of a daily time with You for the rest of our lives, and a weekly tithe to You and to be a part of a committed team for You. We know that when our time and our money and our relationships are under Your control then our life is really under Your control. I thank You for these who are here tonight to make this commitment. In Jesus' name. Amen.