

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What is something you can do this week to get better connected to a church community?
- What can you do help strengthen your church community?
- What is one way that this group can serve the needs of the community around us?

## PRAYER

- Pray for the church community.
- Pray for the needs of the people in your neighborhood, work place, school, family, and the nation.
- Ask God to show you ways to serve in your community.
- Pray for each other's personal needs.
- Pray for the nations

## NOTES

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## Week One – Community

### CONNECT

- Do you consider yourself a people person or a loner?
- What does community mean to you?
- Would you say your primary community is in your neighborhood, workplace, church, or friends?

### WORD

*"<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>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, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

**Acts 2:42–47 (NIV)**

## THOUGHT

Talk with anyone who was in NYC in the aftermath of 9-11 and they will all recall the sense of community that swept through the city. People looked after each other and whatever needs there were in the community were taken care of by the community. People took the time to care for widows, orphans, the poor, anyone in need. And churches which had been in decline for decades across the city, suddenly found themselves filled with people seeking comfort, community, and deeper meaning. Church and Community are still important, but today, that strong sense of community so prevalent in NYC after 9-11, seems to have gradually weakened and disappeared and so have the crowds that filled city churches.

## DISCUSSION

1. **Have you ever been in need in one or more of these areas? Mark any that apply.**

- Financial*
  - Emotional*
  - Spiritual*
  - Physical*
  - Guidance*
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2. **In what ways have you helped meet the needs of other people?**

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3. **What are some things that you like to do to connect with people? Why?**

- Dinner*
- Entertainment*
- Serve*
- Church*

4. **What are the advantages of doing life together as opposed to doing life alone?**

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5. **Every Nation New York City was birthed out of a response to the devastation of 9/11 to bring healing to a wounded city. What role should the church play in the community?**

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6. **The passage we read in Acts 2 described the amazing community that the early church built. Which aspects of the early church community stand out to you?**

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7. **What are some things that have discouraged you from being part of a church community?**

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8. **The scripture says in Psalms 68:6, that 'God sets the lonely in families.' In what ways does God help us build community?**

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