# Fellowship in Church Planting: United as One Team



Explore the joy and strength of fellowship as you build a united congregation together in church planting over five immersive days.





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#### Introduction

*Fellowship* is the heartbeat of the early church and remains vital for church planting today. It is more than mere association; it is a deep, spiritual communion that knits believers together as one body. When planting a church, building this unity is as important as the logistical and strategic aspects. Fellowship cultivates trust, love, and a shared vision among church members, leaders, and the wider community.

The New Testament showcases fellowship as a dynamic, living expression of God's presence among His people. In Acts 2:42–47, we see new believers devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, breaking bread together, and praying. This created an atmosphere where many were drawn to the faith, the church grew, and believers were transformed.

In the context of church planting, **fellowship** fosters unity, support, and encouragement. It helps build a congregation that is not just a gathering of individuals, but a family united by Christ's love and mission. As a team, you need to develop deep, authentic relationships, share joys and burdens, celebrate victories, and persevere through challenges together.

Over this five-day study, we will explore biblical principles of fellowship that empower church planters and their teams to cultivate a strong, vibrant, and united congregation. Through scripture, reflection, and prayer, you will discover practical ways to build fellowship that honors God and effectively advances His kingdom.







# Day 1: 🂝 The Foundation of Fellowship









Day 1: 🍑 The Foundation of Fellowship

#### Your Verse

Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Hebrews 10:24–25 "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..."
- 1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."







Day 1: 🍑 The Foundation of Fellowship

# Devotional: Grounding Fellowship in Teaching and Prayer

**Fellowship** begins with devotion to God's Word and prayer. In Acts 2:42, the early believers' priority was not just coming together but doing so around the apostles' teachings and heartfelt communion. This foundation is essential when planting a church because authentic fellowship must be grounded in shared faith and understanding.

Church planting teams need to intentionally devote themselves to learning and growing together in the Word. Prayer, breaking bread, and mutual encouragement create a spiritual environment where unity can flourish. It's not about superficial meetings but deep connections and shared purpose.

*Hebrews 10:24–25* reminds us that fellowship also motivates us to love and serve one another, especially when challenges arise. And in *1 John 1:7*, walking in God's light strengthens our fellowship because it is centered on truth and holiness.

Today, consider what foundation your team is building. Are you united in God's Word and prayer? This is the soil from which strong church fellowship grows.







Day 1: Ծ The Foundation of Fellowship

# Reflect and Apply

	How devoted is your church planting team to shared study and prayer together?
2.	In what ways can you deepen the spiritual foundation of your fellowship?
3.	What barriers might hinder authentic fellowship in your planting context?







Day 1: Ծ The Foundation of Fellowship

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	List ways you can foster deeper Bible study and prayer among your team.
2.	Write about a time when fellowship strengthened your faith or ministry.
3.	Reflect on what 'walking in the light' means practically for your group.







Day 1: 🎔 The Foundation of Fellowship

## Prayer for Today

Lord, help our church planting team to be firmly rooted in Your Word and prayer. May every gathering be a true fellowship that builds up Your body and glorifies Your name. Teach us to encourage one another, to walk in Your light, and to love deeply as we serve together. Unite our hearts with the purpose You have given us, and let our fellowship be a powerful testimony of Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.









# Day 2: Da









#### Your Verse

Colossians 3:14 – "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
- Ephesians 4:2-3 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."







#### Devotional: Love: The Essential Glue of Our Team

Love is the glue that holds diverse people together in any community, especially in the early stages of church planting where differences might surface strongly. **Colossians 3:14** highlights love as binding everything into perfect unity. Without love, any teamwork or structure will eventually crumble.

Jesus gave us a clear command in *John 13:34* to love one another just as He loved us — sacrificially, humbly, and intentionally. This love is active and patient, as Paul instructs in *Ephesians 4:2–3*, where humility, gentleness, and endurance become becomes marks of true fellowship.

Church planting requires a team willing to bear with imperfection and conflicts, forgiving and serving with a humble heart. Love is more than a feeling; it is a daily choice to seek peace, listen deeply, and prioritize relationships over personal preferences or agendas.

Consider how love is expressed within your planting team. Are there divisions or frustrations needing the healing power of Christ's love? Embracing this call to love will build bridges and grow a congregation that reflects God's heart.







# Reflect and Apply

How does your team currently show love to one another amidst challenges?
What attitudes or behaviors might be hindering unity in your church planting effort?
In what ways can you practice humility and patience to strengthen fellowship?







# **Journaling Prompts**

Write about a time when love helped resolve a conflict or tension.
Reflect on how Christ's love can motivate you toward greater unity.
List practical steps to foster a culture of love in your fellowship.







Day 2: Day 2: Day 2:

## Prayer for Today

Father, teach us to love one another deeply and sincerely. Help us to clothe ourselves in humility and patience, bearing with each other in grace. Let Your perfect love bind our hearts in unity so our church planting team reflects Your kingdom on earth. Heal any divisions and renew our commitment to love as You have loved us. We ask for Your peace to reign among us, keeping our fellowship strong. Amen.

















Day 3: **%** Serving Together in Unity

#### Your Verse

1 Corinthians 12:12 – "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Romans 12:4–5 "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function... we, though many, are one body in Christ."
- Galatians 5:13 "Serve one another humbly in love."







Day 3: **%** Serving Together in Unity

#### Devotional: Embracing Diverse Gifts in Service

The picture of the church as a body with many parts powerfully illustrates fellowship in church planting. Each member has unique gifts and roles, vital to the team's health and mission. **1 Corinthians 12:12** and *Romans 12:4–5* remind us that diversity is God's design for unity.

Serving together requires humility and mutual respect. *Galatians 5:13* exhorts us to serve one another in love, putting others' needs before our own. In a new church plant, members may be trying new roles or facing uncharted challenges. Recognizing and honoring one another's contributions fosters belonging and cooperation.

Fellowship grows when service is joyful, selfless, and rooted in love for Christ and each other. Consider how your team shares responsibilities and supports one another. Are roles clearly appreciated and fulfilled with willing hearts?

Committed service in love is a witness to the surrounding community and a foundation upon which God's kingdom expands.







Day 3: 🛠 Serving Together in Unity

# Reflect and Apply

	How well does your team recognize and utilize individual gifts in church planting?
2.	Are there areas where humble service needs to grow within your team?
	How can you cultivate a culture of joyful, loving service in your fellowship?







Day 3: 🛠 Serving Together in Unity

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Identify your spiritual gifts and how you can serve your church plant.
2.	Write ways you can encourage others to serve wholeheartedly.
	Reflect on a time serving others strengthened relationships in your group.







Day 3: **%** Serving Together in Unity

#### Prayer for Today

God, thank You for designing us as parts of one body. Help our church planting team to value and celebrate every member's gifts. Teach us humility and love as we serve one another, creating a community where everyone belongs and contributes. May our unified service glorify You and draw others to Your kingdom. Strengthen our hands and hearts for the work ahead. Amen.





















#### Your Verse

Ephesians 4:15 – "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 1:19 "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."
- Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."







# Devotional: Truth and Love: Keys to Godly Communication

Effective fellowship depends heavily on clear, loving communication. In church planting, misunderstandings or unspoken frustrations can easily divide a team if not addressed biblically. **Ephesians 4:15** encourages us to speak truth with love, balancing honesty with grace.

James 1:19 urges believers to be good listeners, fostering understanding before responding. This kind of patient communication builds trust and reduces conflict. Meanwhile, *Proverbs 27:17* highlights how constructive conversations sharpen and improve us when done with respect.

Creating an environment where team members feel safe to express concerns, joys, and ideas strengthens fellowship. It encourages growth and maturity as you face the challenges of church planting together.

Consider your group's communication style. Is it marked by grace, respect, and truth? How can you improve listening and speaking to build deeper connection and maturity?







# Reflect and Apply

	. How do you balance honesty and love in your communication with others?		
	Are there communication habits that could be improved in your planting team?		
3.	How might better listening strengthen your fellowship and mission?		







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time careful listening transformed a difficult conversation.
2.	List ways to 'speak the truth in love' in your team's dialogue.
3.	Reflect on how 'iron sharpening iron' applies to your relationships.







## Prayer for Today

Lord, guide our words and hearts to communicate with grace and truth. Help us listen deeply and speak kindly, fostering maturity and unity in our fellowship. Teach us to sharpen one another through gentle correction and encouragement. May Your Spirit lead every conversation so that our church planting team grows stronger together in Christ. Amen.

















Day 5: O Reaching Out as One Body

#### Your Verse

Romans 12:5-6 - "We also have different gifts, according to the grace given to us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."
- Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth."







Day 5: O Reaching Out as One Body

#### Devotional: Unified Fellowship Fuels Mission

Fellowship isn't only for building community internally; it flows outward in mission. Together, a united church planting team can reach the world with the gospel. **Romans 12:5–6** reminds us we all have different gifts that, when combined, serve God's purpose powerfully.

Jesus' Great Commission in *Matthew 28:19–20* calls believers to go beyond fellowship for themselves — to make disciples. *Acts 1:8* promises the Holy Spirit's power to equip and empower this mission.

A church plant that models genuine fellowship becomes a beacon of God's love in its community, attracting others to Christ. Unity strengthens your witness and effectiveness. As you labor together, reflect on how your fellowship nurtures both internal growth and external outreach.

Pray for God's guidance to use your combined gifts to serve and reach others as one body, bringing glory to Him.







Day 5: Reaching Out as One Body

# Reflect and Apply

	How does your team's fellowship enable effective outreach and disciple-making?
2.	Are your spiritual gifts being used together to fulfill God's mission?
	What steps can you take to strengthen your church plant's external witness?







Day 5: Reaching Out as One Body

# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Describe ways your fellowship has impacted those outside your congregation.
2.	Identify how your gifts can better serve the mission as part of the team.
3.	Reflect on prayers for greater power and boldness in outreach.







Day 5: O Reaching Out as One Body

## Prayer for Today

#### Gracious God, thank You for calling us to serve as one body in mission.







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