

---

## Defining Characteristics of the first Christ follower community.

Acts 2:42-47

- **Learned the Word**
- **Lived Life Together**
- **Lived Generously**
- **Prayed**
- **Welcoming**

## Real Life "To-Do" List...

1. **Ephesians 4:2 – Who am I putting up with?**
2. **1 Peter 4:9 – Who am I showing hospitality to?**
3. **Galatians 6:2 – Who am I forgiving?**
4. **Colossians 3:13 – Whose burdens do I help bear?**

## NEXT STEPS

*Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation.*

It's pretty amazing to think that God chooses to use us to make a difference in this world. How do the following verses help us further understand both our role and God's role in this process?

1 Timothy 2:1-7

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Romans 1:20

1 Peter 2:12

1 Peter 3:15-18

What are some potential pitfalls or problems we could face if we confuse our role with God's role or His role with ours?

The mission of Real Life Church is to make Christ followers in a healthy church environment. This week we looked at the example of community of the early church and our responsibility to the community. Ephesians 4:11-16 gives us a picture of what it can look like to grow. According to the passage and/or your experience:

What are some of the obstacles that can get in the way of our spiritual growth both individually and as a church family?

What knowledge and actions are called for in order to see a healthy church grow?

Is there something in this passage that you could apply in your own life to help our church family grow and mature?

## **THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS**

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen.

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

### **SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

### **SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16).