

“NEW COMMUNITY”

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We live in an individualistic society. This forms how we do families (keep our family secrets), how we do life (we drown in our aloneness), and how we do church (we go to church rather than become the church together). Today is a call to a higher life, a life together that moves from independence to interdependence. From freedom to come and go, to commitment to grow and become while realizing what we bring to the moment is critical. Today we hear a call from the Lord to become a New Community full of hope and joy. To form our commitments that we make to the Lord and to each other...together!!

Acts 2:42-47

1. New Community is a community of those who pursue a **love relationship** with Jesus
Acts 2:42 – Devotion!
2. New Community has as its foundation the **scripture** so we are formed by the values and vision of scripture, not the values and vision of the culture
Acts 2:42 – “the apostles teaching”!
3. New Community is kept by our commitment to **holy relationships** that sees the best in others and calls them to it and resolves conflict in holy ways
Matthew 18:15-16
4. New Community is formed by our choosing to **intentionally extend** the Kingdom of God to others
Acts 2:47
5. New Community is fueled by our **personal sacrifice** for the Kingdom of God in time and finances
Acts 2:45 – Kingdom focus of time and finances

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE

If you could make one improvement in where you live, what would it be (add flooring, pool, move to another home, etc.)?

Some churches have membership. At GraceRiver we have previously had a more loose membership. What are the advantages of us now having a more clear membership or “ownership”?

Sunday, the message focused on becoming a new community here at GraceRiver. What did you understand from that teaching? What was challenging? What did the Lord say to you from the message?

Read I Peter 2:4-12 and make some observations:

- 1.
- 2.

- 3.
- 4.

What might that mean “to be built into a spiritual house”? Think about what all this implies (The Message says: “Present yourselves as a building of stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life...”)

Do not read this question until you have answered the one above. In the buildings around our area, many are constructed with cinder blocks. How many would you guess it would take to build one small house? If we are building blocks, what does that imply?

A house is never just one block. Do you see yourself as a part of the whole? If many of us viewed ourselves as part of a larger whole, what would that mean to us as individuals?

How is this membership or “ownership” different than most people “do church”?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What are the advantages of being a part of a larger “body” of Christ?

What have you learned about the church in this study?

What would hold you back from being a member or “owner” at GraceRiver?