

## THE BLESSING OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Life Connecting Teams ~ March 2026

New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

**Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV**

**Objective:** To gain a more enlightened understanding of the vital role of Community in the Christian life.

### Introduction: Creating Authentic Christian Community

Christian Community embodies the shared faith, love, and support we find amongst fellow believers. It's essential for growth and encouragement in our spiritual journey. Scripture emphasizes the importance of hospitality and kindness, guiding us to create welcoming environments that reflect God's love and acceptance. In scripture, we discover God's desires for us to connect to one another, to bear each other's burdens, and to walk together as one body in Christ. In **Acts 2:42 NIV** we read, *“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

Take a moment to read and discuss the following scriptures, what they mean to you and how you should apply them to increase your understanding of *Christian Community*: **Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-47.**

### Lesson: Exploring how Life Connecting Teams are Examples of Christian Community

The heart of a well-formed small group is an intimate, dynamic, and transformative place for Christian fellowship. Our small groups (Life Connecting Teams) are not just church activity but trusted spaces for spiritual growth and deep community bonding. They act as practical settings for spiritual growth, discipleship, evangelism, service and heartfelt connections that may not happen in the larger church setting. In this lesson we will explore some of the important building blocks of Christian Community.

1. **The Importance of Fellowship: Philippians 2:1-2 NIV** *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being likeminded, by having the same love, being one in Spirit and of one mind.*

In our walk as Christians, fellowshiping with one another plays a pivotal role in our faith. Being part of a Christian Community allows us to share our struggles and victories. When we gather in our LCT groups, at church, or serving in our communities, we fulfill the need for connection and support. Fellowship encourages us, strengthens our faith, and reminds us of the love God has for us through our brothers and sisters in Christ. It's through sharing our lives that we can fully appreciate the concept of community as Jesus meant it to be. How does serving together enhance our sense of Christian Community?

2. **Sharing Burdens Together:** *“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* – **Galatians 6:2 NIV**, *“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them.”* – **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV**

In our Christian community, we are called to support one another, especially during difficult times. Life is full of ups and downs, and God designed us to bear each other's burdens. This is a beautiful expression of love that reflects Christ's own love for us. I must share something Min. Sandra Baldi said that made a

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great impression on me. She said, "We must give people a reason that compels them to be part of our LCT Ministry". Talk about how the concept that we have others who are like-minded in faith and their love for Jesus to walk with us is a great reason to be part of a Christian Community!

Discuss what drew you to be a member of your LCT group or the church. Do you see value in participating? Have you experienced spiritual growth? Do you share your experiences with others who may not participate?

3. **A Welcoming Environment:** *"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes Me, and anyone who welcomes Me welcomes the one who sent Me."* – **Matthew 10:40 NIV**

The environment in which a small group meets as well as when our Congregation meets is crucial to its impact when it comes to the engagement of the members as we create Christian Community. An example in the small group is the seating arrangement that fosters an atmosphere of relaxation and informality. When holding virtual or phone meetings, it can be more of a challenge, but the leader will set a welcoming tone where emotional connections can develop. **What are some ways that the leader plays a crucial role in creating an atmosphere of inclusion and clarity about the purpose of the meeting and expectations for participation?**

4. **Communicating Love:** *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* – **John 13:34 NIV**

Clear communication of love and care are fundamental parts of being welcoming. We can express our love through words, gestures, and actions. When we openly communicate our care for others, we invite them into our lives and open the door to deeper relationships. It's essential to verbalize our feelings and intentions, letting others know they are valued. By making our care evident, we create a warm and inviting community. When we consider building blocks of Christian Community, cross-generational fellowship is a vital bridge to building relationships that foster both personal and spiritual growth. **We are called to foster relationships that enrich the lives of everyone when life experiences across generations are shared. Do you agree?**

### Remember in Prayer:

- Bishop Grannum, Founder; Pastor Bob Oliver & Lady Denise; Pastor Wangui Mwangi; Pastor Omar Barlow & wife Jeneen; Pastor Andrew Grannum & wife Chevas and their families.
- NCC Heads of Ministries; Ministers; Deacons; Ministry Leaders
- NCC staff and volunteers
- NCC Capital Campaign for renovations of the property
- Sick & shut-in; Those who are grieving the passing of a loved one
- Our children, youth and young adults
- That we as a church, pray without ceasing for unity in hearing and doing the will of God

*Unlock the Power of Discipleship:* Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes; brief excerpts from Chapter 5: pgs. 88-95

<https://biblestudyforyou.com/bible-verses-about-christian-community/>