

The Thriving Church, Part 5: Community

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The Thriving Church Series / Acts 2:42–47

Acts 2:42–47 CEB

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵ They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶ Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷ They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Core Commitment: Fuel a Warm Community

Structures alone are not enough to foster warm relationships.

Space needs to be created to fuel a warm community.

Warmth is a dominate gene in the DNA of the church family. Acts 2:42-47

Warmth helps young people find and stick with a church.

Warm intergenerational relationships grow everyone young.

Fostering peer friendships fosters spiritual formation.

Examples of Warm Community

Home ministry passages Luke 10:5-7; Acts 2:46; Acts 5:42; Acts 12:12; Acts 20:20; Acts 28:7-10; Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2; Hebrews 13:3; 1 Peter 4:9-10

Ideas for Action

Pray warmly.

Help newcomers.

Create 5:1 ratio of adults and young people.

Grow small groups.