



Real SMALL Community
Shares Life Together (Acts 2:42, 46-47)
By Pastor David Hillis, 24 January 2016

BIG IDEA: We grow the most alongside Godly people whom we share life with the most.

ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE

- Studies show that the number of socially isolated Americans has *doubled* since 1985, and nearly half of Americans admit to struggling with loneliness.
- Jesus spent most of his time among a small group of others that he shared life with, day after day, year after year.

THE EARLY CHURCH HAD STRUGGLES, BUT NOT THIS ONE

- They lived a life in community – in *small* community, with other followers of Jesus that they came to know well because of their common faith.
- They didn't just do Bible studies and pray together; they *shared life* together.
- Acts 2:42 tells us they were *devoted* to 3 things: to Godly teaching, to prayer, and to fellowship!
- In the early Church, their strength, their hope, their *identity* even, in part, came from sharing life together, sharing in a common life.

REAL, SMALL COMMUNITY AT GRACE

- At Grace, we firmly believe in the ministry of small groups – these real, small communities we have meeting in homes and other places across NW Tucson at different times almost every day of the week.
- You can find out more about these groups at gracetucson.org/groups.

MY NEXT STEP

How much of my life am I sharing with Christian friends who enjoy & care about each other?

FOR FURTHER STUDY/REFLECTION THIS WEEK:

1. Review Acts 2:42-47 again this week. What does it say about sharing a common life, concerning your relationships with God and other followers of Christ? How realistic is it to share a common life in our culture? Does sharing yourself seem too radical?
2. Read 1 John 1, looking for all the places it talks about fellowship, partnership, shared life, as these are passages speaking about *koinoneia*. How does this chapter explain what it looks like?
3. Read Philippians 2:1-2. What qualities of genuine, Christian community do you see here? Which do you long for the most? Consider whether you personally have real, small community where you see these qualities. If you don't, ask God to help you take that step.