



# First Things First

*My Relationship with Others*

Week 3

3 of 4

January 24, 2016

Icebreaker: What is the most memorable experience you have of being part of a group?

**KEY VERSE:** *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Acts 4:32-35 NIV*

There are no “Lone Ranger” Christians. The majority of our culture is individualistic and self-seeking, but the church of Jesus Christ was never meant to be this way. Rather, the analogies we see used to describe individual members in a church are stones in a temple or parts in a body. We need each other. We are designed for Christ and for each other. Just as an eye cannot say to a hand “I don’t need you,” neither can we look at a brother or sister in Christ to say we do not need him or her (1 Corinthians 12:21).

We see that in the early church, this was not something they talked about but something they lived out. There were thousands of disciples at this time, yet they were of one mind (v. 32). The verses paint a picture of great unity in belief and purpose – this is the church at her best. No one seems to have regarded himself or herself as more important than anyone else. They were known, loved, served, and celebrated in a community of faith that desired their presence and wanted to see them grow.

We pursue these types of relationships based on the example of Scripture and because these are the environments that produce Christian growth. If you want to grow, you must be involved in community.

## THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight’s message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said we have four basic needs:

- To Know and Be Known
- To Love and Be Loved
- To Serve and Be Served
- To Celebrate and Be Celebrated

There were a few thousand disciples at the time Luke wrote Acts 4. Why is it exceptional that they were “united in heart and mind”?

Why do we experience great blessing when we involve ourselves in the mission of God?

Have you ever had a physical or material need met by someone in the community of the church? How did that impact your faith?

## LOOK IT OVER >>>

Do you find a sense of unity and purpose in being a part of our church and this group? How has God shown you more of Himself through Christian community?

What does it look like to be known, loved, served, and celebrated in this group?

Do you know someone who needs to be invited to this group or to another group?

Are there any needs in the church that need to be met that God is calling us to address?

How important is it to you to meet regularly in the group? Why is consistency important (Heb. 10:23-25)?

## NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Pray that we would be a community of believers who are devoted to one another in the way we see in Acts 4. Ask that God would strengthen the bonds of our relationships and urge us to move forward in love, desiring to connect others into the same relationship you have found with God in Christ Jesus.
2. Evaluate the relationships you have with the people God has brought to your group. Are you actively trying to know, love, serve, and celebrate each one of them? How can you contribute to the overall health of the group through your involvement in these areas? Look for opportunities this week to do all four.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

I am loving the people in my group.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- Hebrews 10:23-25
- Acts 2:42-47
- John 13:34-35
- Romans 12:1-21
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Ephesians 4:1-6

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)*