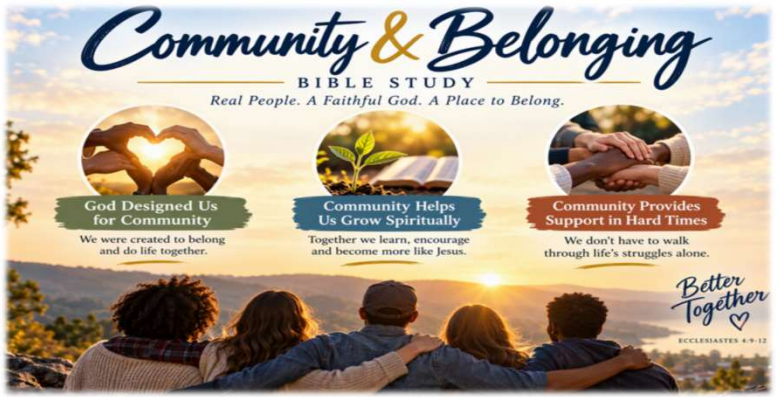


1

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

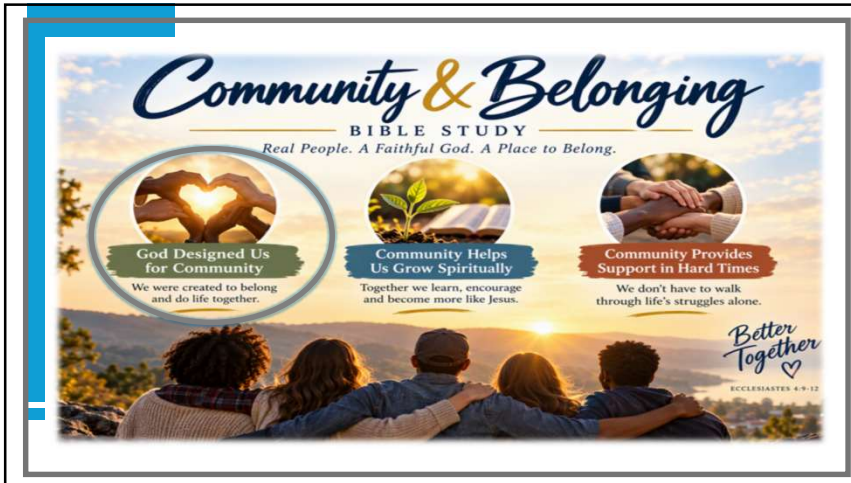
24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2

Theme

God created us to belong, grow, and support one another through the gift of Christian community.

3



4

God Designed Us for Community

- God declared it "not good" for humans to be alone.

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18 NIV)

- Unity among God's people is pleasant and blessed.

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1 NIV)

5

God Designed Us for Community

- Two are better than one for support & strength.

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV)

- In Jesus, we belong to one another.

5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:5 NIV)

6

God Designed Us for Community

- Early believers lived in close fellowship.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2:44 NIV)

7

Characteristics of a Healthy Christian Community

- The heart of Acts 2:44 is not primarily communal ownership, but:
  - Deep fellowship (koinonia)
  - Mutual care
  - Generous sharing
  - Spiritual unity
  - Bearing one another's burdens

8

Deep Fellowship (Koinonia)

- Residents regularly gathering before meals to share prayer requests.
- A Bible study group celebrating birthdays & anniversaries together.
- Friends checking on a fellow believer who has not attended activities recently.
- Residents gathering in common areas for coffee & conversation regularly.

9

Mutual Care

- Taking a meal to someone recovering from surgery.
- Visiting a resident who rarely receives visitors.
- Helping someone read mail or complete paperwork when eyesight is failing.
- Sitting with a neighbor who is anxious while waiting for test results.
- Encouraging a caregiver who is exhausted from caring for a spouse.

10

Generous Sharing

- Lending books, devotionals, or Bible study materials.
- Sharing extra snacks or treats with neighbors.
- Being aware of a benevolence fund at church.
- Offering a listening ear when someone needs to talk.
- Sharing wisdom & life experiences with younger believers.
- Donating clothing or personal items to those in need.

11

Spiritual Unity

- Christians from different backgrounds praying together.
- Participating in worship even when musical preferences differ.
- Respectfully discussing Bible passages while focusing on shared faith in Jesus.
- Praying for one another's families & concerns.
- Working together on a service project despite different personalities.

12

Bearing One Another's Burdens

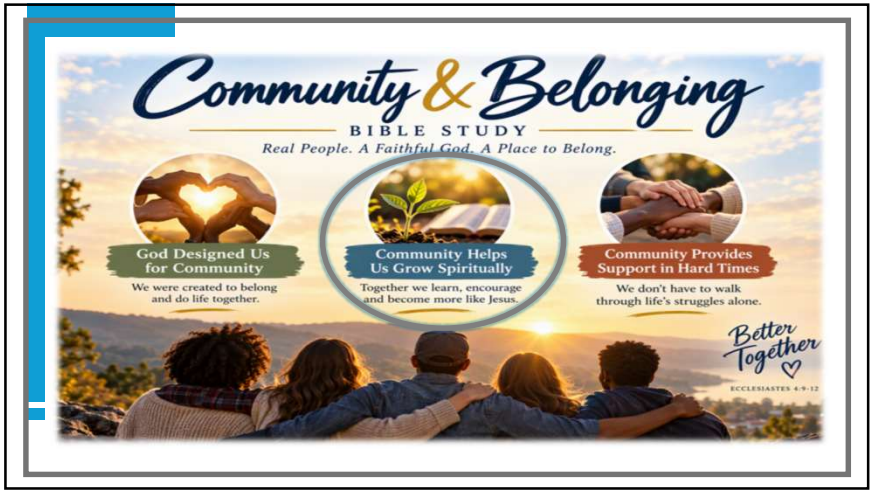
- Comforting someone grieving the loss of a spouse.
- Praying faithfully for a resident facing cancer treatments.
- Sitting quietly with a friend who is lonely.
- Encouraging someone struggling with depression or discouragement.
- Supporting a family during a medical crisis.
- Helping a resident adjust after moving into the facility.

13

Discussion Questions

- Why is community important in senior living?
- How does belonging help emotional well-being?
- How can seniors help create a welcoming environment?

14



15

Community Helps Us Grow Spiritually

- Believers sharpen one another.

17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17 NIV)

- We teach & encourage one another.

16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16 NIV)

16

Community Helps Us Grow Spiritually

- Community helps restore those who stumble.

1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 NIV)

17

Community Helps Us Grow Spiritually

- Confession & prayer within community bring healing.

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16 NIV)

18

Community Helps Us Grow Spiritually

- We grow spiritually through shared service.

35 "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35 NIV)

19

Discussion Questions

- How does community help you grow spiritually?
- What spiritual practices are easier in community?
- How can seniors encourage each other spiritually?

20



21

Community Provides Support in Hard Times

- We bear one another's burdens.

2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2 NIV)

- We rejoice & weep together.

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. (Romans 12:15 NIV)

22

Community Provides Support in Hard Times

- We encourage & build each other up.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
(1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV)

23

Community Provides Support in Hard Times

- Friends comfort in suffering.

11 When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.
(Job 2:11 NIV)

24

Community Provides Support in Hard Times

- God comforts us so we can comfort others.

4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Corinthians 1:4 NIV)

25

Discussion Questions

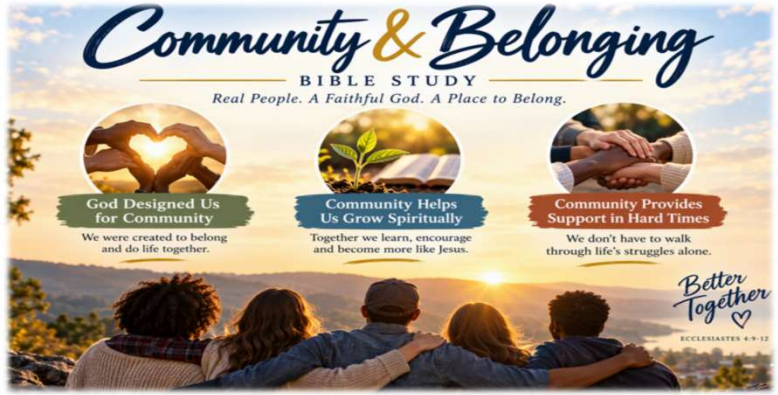
- How has community helped you through difficult seasons?
- Why is shared support important in later life?
- How can you offer comfort to others?

26

Practical Applications

- Prayer Circle - Pray together & pray for one another.
- Welcome Team Habit - Make everyone feel seen, valued, & included.
- Weekly Encouragement Notes - Send a note, card, or message to encourage someone.
- Shared Scripture Reading - Read God's Word together & discuss its meaning.
- Support Partner System - Check in regularly, pray together, and offer support.

27



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