



# Community

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common.” - Acts 2:42-47

**Big Idea:** Christian community is more than just hanging out—it’s living life together with purpose, love, and spiritual growth.

## Community is Devoted to God’s Word and Prayer

### Truth:

Real community is built on spiritual connection, not just shared interests.

### Key Verse:

Acts 2:42 - “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

### Application:

Ask yourself—Is my friend group helping me grow closer to Jesus?

## Community Shares Life, Not Just Space

### Truth:

Christian community means we care deeply for each other’s needs—emotionally, spiritually, and practically.

### Key Verse:

Acts 2:44-45 - “All the believers were together and had everything in common... They gave to anyone who had need.”

### Application:

What would it look like if you loved your small group like family?

## Community is Attractive to the World

### Truth:

When believers live in authentic community, others take notice.

### Key Verse:

Acts 2:47 - “...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily...”

### Application:

People around you are looking for real connection. Be the kind of friend who makes Jesus known.

## Icebreaker:

What’s one thing you love about your group of friends?  
What’s something weird or fun your friend group always does?

## Go Deeper:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 aloud together.
  - What does this passage show us about how the early Christians lived?
  - How is their idea of “community” different from what we see in most schools today?
2. Do you feel like you’re part of a real Christian community? Why or why not?

## Weekly Challenge: Live out Acts 2:42-47.

Pick ONE way to grow in community this week:

- Invite someone new to youth group
- Pray with a friend during the week
- Share something encouraging or helpful with someone
- Sit with someone who usually sits alone



# Identity

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb... I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” - Psalm 139:13-16

**Big Idea:** Your identity doesn’t come from what others say about you—it comes from who God says you are.

## You Were Created Intentionally

### Truth:

You are not an accident—God made you on purpose, with purpose.

### Key Verse:

Psalm 139:13 - “You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

### Application:

Don’t let culture define you when your Creator already has.

## You Are Wonderfully Made

### Truth:

You are valuable and worthy—not because of how you look, perform, or compare, but because of how God made you.

### Key Verse:

Psalm 139:14 - “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

### Application:

When you look in the mirror, do you see what God sees?

## Your Life Has Purpose

### Truth:

God has a plan for your life—even when you can’t see it yet.

### Key Verse:

Psalm 139:16 - “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

### Application:

Your identity is not just about who you are—it’s about what you were made to do in Christ.

**Icebreaker:** What’s a nickname you’ve had, and how did you get it?  
What’s one thing people often assume about you that isn’t true?

## Go Deeper:

1. Read Psalm 139:13–16 aloud together.

- Which verse stands out to you most? Why?
- How does knowing you’re “fearfully and wonderfully made” challenge how you view yourself?

2. What are some lies you’ve believed about your identity?

## Weekly Challenge: Truth Over Lies.

- Write down one negative thing you’ve believed about yourself. Then write what God says about you in Psalm 139 next to it.
- Share this truth with someone else who needs encouragement this week.



# Gratitude

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thess 5:16-18

**Big Idea:** Gratitude is not just a feeling—it’s a daily choice to recognize God’s goodness no matter what you’re facing.

## Gratitude Starts with Rejoicing

### Truth:

Gratitude isn’t about ignoring your struggles; it’s about focusing on the joy found in Jesus.

### Key Verse:

1 Thess 5:16 - “Rejoice always”

### Application:

What would it look like to “rejoice always” in your current season?

## Gratitude Grows Through Prayer

### Truth:

Prayer helps shift your heart from complaint to contentment.

### Key Verse:

1 Thess 5:17 - “Pray continually”

### Application:

If we talked to God as often as we texted, how might our perspective shift?

## Gratitude is a Way of Life

### Truth:

We don’t give thanks for everything, but we can give thanks in everything.

### Key Verse:

1 Thess 5:18 - “Give thanks in all circumstances”

### Application:

Gratitude isn’t about ignoring pain—it’s about trusting God through it.

**Icebreaker:** If you had to eat one food every day for a year, what would it be—and would you still be thankful?

## Go Deeper:

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 aloud together.

- Why do you think Paul connects joy, prayer, and thankfulness?
- How is it possible to give thanks in all circumstances? What does that look like in real life?

2. What’s one thing you’ve taken for granted that you want to thank God for today?

**Weekly Challenge:** Each day, write down (or say out loud) 3 specific things you’re thankful for—big or small. Try to include something about God, something about someone else, and something about your day.



# Christmas

PULSE 4

Luke 2:8–14 – The angels announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.  
John 1:14 – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."  
Isaiah 9:6 – "For to us a child is born... and he will be called... Prince of Peace."

**Big Idea:** Christmas isn't just about gifts and good vibes—it's about God coming close to bring hope, healing, and eternal life.

## God Came to Us

### Truth:

Jesus didn't wait for us to be perfect—He entered our broken world.

### Key Verse:

John 1:14 – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

### Application:

You don't have to "clean up" to come to Jesus—He meets you where you are.

## Peace Is Possible

### Truth:

The angels declared peace because Jesus came to restore what was broken.

### Key Verse:

Luke 2:8–14 – The angels announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

### Application:

Jesus brings peace with God, with others, and within yourself—will you receive it?

## The Best Gift Is Jesus

### Truth:

Presents fade, but Christ's love and hope last forever.

### Key Verse:

Isaiah 9:6 – "For to us a child is born... and he will be called... Prince of Peace."

### Application:

Are you focusing more on the wrapping paper or the real gift of the season?

## Icebreaker:

If you could only keep one Christmas item (tree, music, presents, food), all year round, what would it be?

## Go Deeper:

1. Read the scriptures aloud together.

- Read Luke 2:8–14. Why do you think the angels appeared to shepherds first?
- Read John 1:14. What does it mean that "the Word became flesh"? Why does it matter?
- Read Isaiah 9:6. What stands out to you about the titles given to Jesus?

2. Is there an area in your life where you need the peace that Jesus offers?

## Weekly Challenge:

Find one way to show the love of Jesus this week:

- Encourage someone lonely
- Forgive someone
- Give to someone in need
- Invite someone to church