

Fellowship

Scripture shows us that intentional fellowship is an essential spiritual discipline for cultivating our faith. Together, let's examine the descriptions of fellowship found in both the Old and New Testaments. Through this study, we'll come to better understand how our fellowship with each other deepens our relationship with God, our peace, and our worship.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- When you hear the word "fellowship," what comes to mind? Is it a feeling, place, activity, or relationship?
- Do you think of fellowship as something that requires intentional effort, or does it feel more like something that happens naturally? Why?
- What does fellowship look like in your own life right now?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Fellowship](#)

READ [Leviticus 7:12-15](#), [Acts 2:40-47](#), [2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- The fellowship offering (*shalamim*) was rooted in shalom and was the only offering in Israel's worship that was both voluntary and shared as a meal. What does it mean to you that the biblical foundation for fellowship is rooted in gratitude and joy rather than obligation?
- The Israelites brought a fellowship offering when someone was overwhelmed with gratitude because God had come through in a big way. Can you think of a time when that kind of gratitude fueled your own sense of fellowship with God or with others? What sparked that gratitude?
- The benediction in [2 Corinthians 13:14](#), "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit," points to our shared life with the Triune God as the source of all human fellowship. How does grounding fellowship in our relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit impact the way you think about the community you're part of?
- In segment 3, hosts Scott Hozee and Dave Bast described real cultural headwinds against fellowship: rugged individualism, the fading of communal associations (Robert Putnam's *Bowling Alone*), and the pull toward isolation. Where do you feel those pressures most in your own life, and how have they affected your participation in your community?
- Dave observed that we don't choose our fellow church members. They are given to us by God, making the church a "laboratory" for practicing grace. Is there someone in your faith community with whom fellowship requires intentional effort? Drawing on C. S. Lewis's idea that acting lovingly can precede the feeling, what might one small step look like for you?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 133](#), [John 17:20–23](#), [1 John 1:1–7](#), [Revelation 21:1–5](#)

CONCLUSION

Fellowship is the spiritual discipline of intentionally cultivating shared life with God and with one another. Rooted in the shalom of the Old Testament fellowship offering and grounded in the shared life of the Trinity itself, Christian fellowship is far more than socializing; it is a practice that deepens our worship, strengthens our faith, and bears witness to the reconciling power of the gospel. In a culture that pulls us toward isolation and self-sufficiency, choosing community is itself an act of faithfulness.

Close your time of reflection in prayer using the following prompts: use these prompts to guide your closing prayer individually or as a group:

- Thank God for the peace with him that makes all other fellowship possible.
- Ask the Holy Spirit, the bond of fellowship between the Father and the Son, to deepen your sense of belonging to God and to one another.
- Confess the ways individualism, busyness, or conflict have pulled you away from the community God has given you.
- Pray by name for someone in your church with whom fellowship is difficult. Ask for the grace to act lovingly even before affection comes.
- Ask God to shape your congregation into a community that reflects, however dimly, the full and eternal fellowship of [Revelation 21](#), where God dwells with his people forever.

As you finish, think of one concrete step you can take this week to pursue intentional fellowship, whether that means reaching out to someone, showing up somewhere, or simply being more present where you already are.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/fellowship>

Printed on June 24, 2026