

## Better Together

*“They worshipped together” Acts 2:46a*

In addition to smaller group settings, the Bible records in Acts Chapter 2 that Christ followers met as a larger group on a regular basis to worship God together. This type of corporate worship continued throughout the Book of Acts. It set an important pattern for believers which has continued to this day. Gathering with other believers in a larger group is a great habit for new believers to set up as an ongoing activity in their lives.

Later in the New Testament, believers are commanded to not stop meeting together. (Hebrews 10:25) Isolation can bring discouragement, fear and loneliness but when God’s people get together, they are able to encourage each other as well as help one another to show love and to do good. For example, two of Christ’s disciples Peter and John were put in jail for their faith. They were warned to not preach anymore about Jesus or they would be punished. However, after their release, they returned to the group of believers to report what had happened and lifted their voices to God and prayed. During that time of corporate worship, God made his presence known by shaking the place where they were meeting and filling everyone there with His Spirit. As a result, instead of being fearful, they began to bravely speak God’s message with boldness. (Acts 4:23-31)

Here’s some things to consider doing when God’s people meet in a larger setting and what the scriptures tell us. I think you will find these very familiar.

1. Play music and sing songs of praise to God (1 Corinthians 14:26)
2. Share personal stories of what God has been doing the lives of people (Acts 4:20)
3. Pray (Acts 2:1-47; 4:31; 12:5, Joel 1:14)
4. Read scripture (1 Timothy 4:13, Acts 15:21)
5. Preach/teach lessons about God (1 Timothy 4:13, Acts 15:21)
6. Invite people to receive Christ and his Spirit (Acts 2:38, 39)
7. Possibly include other things to help the church become stronger such as baptisms (Acts 2:41)

It's so important to develop a habit of regularly gathering. We truly are better when we are together. We each have an opportunity to take part regularly in something bigger than ourselves and when we do, we get to experience life change in ourselves and in others. It’s an awesome feeling! Here are couple thoughts on creating a habit of gathering with others regularly.

**Better together, scriptures challenge us.** *“Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25 ESV.*

Busyness and life will sometimes make it seem like gathering is optional. To be better together, we should make a habit of an ongoing and regular commitment to attending a weekly service.

**Better together, the local church plays a huge roll.** Think about it. After the four gospels, almost all of the New Testament is about the local church or directed to the local church. Throughout the New Testament, different local congregations met together and worshipped together. The Local church is a place for healing, reconciliation, restoration, salvation, and growth. Imagine when we all do this together!

**Better together, when we encourage.** There is something about gathering that boosts people's spirits. There aren't many things that can change the course of our attitude or behavior like a warm welcome or word of encouragement.

**Better together, grow together.** We grow when we read scriptures and pray regularly. We grow when we share our story and faith and serve regularly. We grow when we gather faithfully and regularly.

When one person creates these habits and others are doing the same, that is where we find the power and edge of being Better Together. We are designed to be in relationship with others. You matter, people matter, and relationships matter. God is honored in a big way when we gather and grow together. See you at Church!