

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

Participating in God's Family

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other." Heb. 10:25 (GN)

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

*"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong to the family of believers**." Gal. 6:10*

"The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord." Dr. Ray Ortland

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and **you belong** in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 (LB)*

*"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all the others!" Rom. 12:5*

2. I NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds." Heb. 10:24 (Ph)

"Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break." Eccl. 4:9-10,12 (GN)

3. I NEED ACCOUNTABILITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron." Pr. 27:17 (GN)

"Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin." Heb. 3:13 (JB)

*"Brothers, if someone is trapped in some sin, you who are spiritual should **restore** him gently ... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:1-2*

4. CHRIST IS PRESENT WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

"For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!" Matt 18:20 (GN)

5. THERE IS POWER WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." Matt. 18:19 (GN)

6. FELLOWSHIP IS A WITNESS TO THE WORLD.

(Jesus) *"My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind .. so the world will believe you sent me."* John 17:21(LB)

7. I AM OBLIGATED TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN

"God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other ..." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." 1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (LB)

The "One Another's" of Fellowship

(Partial List)

Serve one another	Gal. 5:13
Accept one another	Rom 15:7
Forgive one another	Col. 3:13
Greet one another	Rom. 16:16
Bear one another's burdens	Gal. 6:2
Be devoted to one another	Rom. 12:10
Honor one another	Rom. 12:10
Teach one another	Rom 15:14
Submit to one another	Eph. 5:21
Encourage one another	1 Thess. 5:11

HOW CAN A LARGE CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO BE A PART OF A SMALL GROUP (House Party).

"(They met) day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house." Acts 5:42

2 Types of Church Meetings

Large Group:

Small Group:

"Greet the church that meets in their home." Rom. 16:5

Also Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20, 1 Cor. 16:19, Col. 4:15

At JCCIGT, we believe our church must ...

grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?
(Acts 2:42-47)

1. **BIBLE STUDY**

*"They **DEVOTED THEMSELVES** to the apostle's teaching..."*

2. **FELLOWSHIP**

"...and to the fellowship ..."

3. **COMMUNION**

"... and to the breaking of bread ..."

4. **PRAYER**

"... and to prayer ..."

"OUR FATHER ... give US ... OUR daily bread ... forgive US ... OUR ... debts ... as WE have forgiven OUR debtors ... lead US not into temptation ... deliver US ..." Matt 6:9-13

5. **SUPPORT**

"... they gave to anyone as he had a need ..."

*"... you shared with me the **fellowship** of giving and receiving." Phil. 4:15 (Ph)*

6. **SOCIAL**

"... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts ..."

*"Get into **the habit** of inviting guests home for dinner or if they need lodging, for the night." Rom. 12:13 (LB)*

7. **PRAISE**

"... praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people."

8. **OUTREACH**

*"And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved."*

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

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STEP ONE: _____

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: _____

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

STEP THREE: _____

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or resolution. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing.

"Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them." Ps. 76:11

STEP FOUR: _____

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. A single slip unwinds many turns at first. Continuity and success at the start is essential. Never be swayed by "just this once". The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 3 to 4 weeks (doing it daily) for it to become a part of your life.

IT TAKES _____ TO _____ REPETITIONS TO LEARN SOMETHING!

STEP FIVE: _____

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit - DO IT THEN! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so whenever you feel inclined to perform your new habit, do so!

STEP SIX: _____

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

"Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to ... helpful deeds and noble activities." Heb. 1:25 (Amp)

"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up." Eccl. 4:9-10 (GN)

STEP SEVEN: _____

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ so he will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

*"For the Spirit of God has given us ... fills us with power, love, and **self-control**." 2 Tim. 1:7 (GN)*

*"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you **the will and the power** to achieve his purpose."*
Phil. 2:13 (Ph)

JCCIGT'S MATURITY VISION

We dream of 15,000 members who have committed themselves to the Maturity Covenant: Having a daily time with God, giving a weekly tithe to God, and participating in a weekly team (small group) for God.

We dream of a network of 1000 small groups within our church providing support, encouragement, and acceptability to our members as they seek to grow in Christlikeness. These groups will be led by Lay Pastors and leaders who are loving shepherds of people, growing in Christlike Character, trained in small group dynamics, and grounded in the basic beliefs of our faith.

We dream of a CLASS Institute that implements the philosophy of our Life Development Process. We intend to offer Bible studies, topical seminars, and skill development classes every day and night of the week and in annual conferences. 7,500 people will have completed the basic diploma in this institute: a place for building up believers' and producing doers of the word.

We dream of a Midweek Believer's Service that involves 5,000 adults, children and youth in edifying worship and study of God's Word.

We dream of a faculty of 250 gifted lay teachers, equipped with the vision, character, skills, knowledge, and expertise to feed the flock in our church. We intend to train our teachers to be experts in areas such as doctrine, Bible books, apologetics, and Christian growth. We dream of the day that it can be said, "The best Bible teachers in the country are the lay teachers at JCCIGT."

We dream of an age-appropriate Life Development Process that leads our children and youth to fall in love with the Lord for a lifetime: to commit themselves to the fellowship of the church, mature spiritually, discover their shape for ministry and understand their life mission in the world.

We dream of JCCIGT as a model of Christian education that focuses on life change. We intend to make available resources, tools, and training to thousands of other Purpose-Driven churches.

We dream of cooperating with seminaries in establishing a church-based training program for pastors from our church and from around the world. We intend to train leadership for the 21st century church in how to start, develop and lead Purpose Driven churches.

Finally...and most significantly...we dream of a JCCIGT Sam and Samantha who are becoming Christlike. We see you living a life based upon:

A new values system: A values system that is being driven by the habits of maturity.

A new belief system: A Christian World View.

A new lifestyle: Change and exciting growth that touches every area of your life - personal, family, work, goals, future, EVERY area of life.

A new relationship: A deep and lasting relationship with the Lord that is personal and intimate and joyous.

The goal of this vision is to bring glory to God by presenting Jesus Christ with as many Christlike disciples as we possibly can before He returns.

5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



WHAT NOW?

DIAMOND GRAPHIC