

4. fellowship -

...the rhythm of community

“...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”
Hebrews 10:23-25

We meet weekly in homes to share a meal – house to house, (Acts 2:42) in the context of daily life. This is not the large gathering (e.g. Sermon on the Mount – 5,000 fed; Where did they go after that? These were NOT disciples)

JESUS - OUR LEAD: Luke 22:14 “When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him.”

Hebrews 10:25 describes the need for “fellowship” in terms of encouragement, and tells us not to forsake it. We see it modeled in the twelve disciples – and in Acts 5:42 – “in the temple and from house to house”. From the basics of Acts 2:42 – We meet in homes weekly to share a meal, worship, get into the Scriptures together and minister in God’s power to the needs that are present. In addition we all gather together from time to time in a more public setting for testimonies and celebration.

1Cor. 14:26 states why we are gifted at all – ministry to one another:

“What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a message in another language, has an interpretation for others. Let all things be done for edification.”

The Main Idea: The purpose of meeting together where we live is to bring Jesus to our table - our inner life; together. **It can so something like this:**

THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER - The host and those who are led can meet early and submit the meeting to God, put on the armor of God, and then bind the enemy from interference at the meeting. After praying as the Holy Spirit guides, finish by praying for God’s Holy Spirit to fill us and the meeting place. *Some may be led to pray during the meeting.*

SHARING THE MEAL - All contribute to the meal as they are able, owning the event, and meeting needs.

MINISTRY OF THE BREAD AND CUP - We may have acknowledge the remembrance of the bread and cup (1Cor 11:23-27) to begin or end the meal, following Jesus’ model at the last supper. We do explain that this act is a gesture of personal faith in Jesus Christ, and a person should know that they have received Jesus as Lord and Savior – We may invite anyone who feels the need to settle this question to do so then and there.

THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING - We first **pray for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the meaning of the passage**, then we might discuss it as a group, or break out for 15 minutes or so to study the Scripture section for the week. Each person contributes; Each shares what the Spirit of God seemed to point out in the passage, and after open discussion and Q&A, all reflect on how they need to walk out what they have seen. This may be very personal.

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING - Included here is an update on the mission account, and how giving works in the fellowship. Giving is guided by 2 Corinthians 9:7, *“Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* This is our “model” - not with percentages, but by the leading of God in our hearts. We recognize that where our treasure is, our hearts are also there.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP - This is a time of prayer, singing (with instruments or without – even DVD’s), and bringing both our needs and our thanks to the feet of Jesus.

MINISTRY IN THE GIFTS - There is an opportunity during this time to share needs for prayer and ministry for **healing, spiritual freedom, (WITNESS, WELLNESS, AND WARFARE)** As these are shared, those who sense the Spirit providing through them would offer what they have.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS - We recognize the need for all the gifts the Holy Spirit wants to give us for ministry. We receive them all, but also test them – based on 1John 4:1-3 (see **rhythm 1**). We may break up into groups again, possibly dividing men and women, or not. In these groups people share what they need - and ask God to meet these needs. The rest in the group agree in prayer, and may be led to minister through healing, or stand with the person in spiritual warfare.

ENDING TIME - We have an end time so that those who need to leave will not feel they have to cut out before the end of the meeting. Some may stay longer if the host can accommodate, but we don’t assume.