

# Fellowship Time with Christians

## Topic: Fellowship

### Purpose of this study:

To give students a basic understanding of the importance of Christian fellowship and to encourage them to begin attending Christian functions.

### Motivation for teaching this study:

Once a student invites Christ into his or her life, they become part of the body of Christ. This body of Christ is composed of all those who are believers and who name Jesus as their Lord. This lesson should be taught with two ideas in mind. First to teach your students about fellowship and second to motivate them to be involved in fellowship themselves. Without fellowship, a new believer, or for that matter any believer will shrivel up and die. However with fellowship, one can grow and experience all the benefits of being part of the body of Christ.

### Introducing the Lesson:

You may want to begin by asking the question, "In what place have you felt the most love and acceptance by people since you have been a Christian?" After they answer you can say, "Today we want to talk about fellowship and what the Bible has to say about how Christians should relate to each other."

**1. The importance of love in fellowship.** Stress that this is the single most important ingredient in true fellowship. It is the basis by which we are to relate to one another as brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. The four matching verses all uncover benefits from being involved with other believers.

**2. Why we should fellowship.** Here you may want to turn to I Corinthians 12:12-26 to illustrate the similarities between how the human body works and how the body of Christ should function. No one part is superior or inferior but all parts are essential. You could ask them how life would be different without an eye or a liver or a knee cap!

**The log illustration:** When all the logs are together they burn continuously until there is nothing but ashes. However if take one log away by itself, it will quickly lose its fire. To keep the fire burning all the logs must be huddling close together for mutual strength. So it is in the body of Christ - we must all work together to keep ourselves on fire for God.

**3. What we do in fellowship.** These are some of the best verses in the Bible encouraging Christians to experience true fellowship. Ephesians 4:15-16 shows how the body should grow up by each member speaking the truth in love to the other members. However there are two extremes we can fall into. One is that we can just speak the truth without love, which is very damaging, or we can merely speak love without being truthful, which can be equally damaging over the long haul. We need to have both aspects, love and truth, in our communication with one another to really build up the body of Christ.

**Questions to consider...** Here I am trying to get at the nature of true fellowship and where it actually takes place. Hopefully your students will recognize the difference between just doing things with their Christian friends versus having real genuine fellowship. The last question will help you discover how your students are doing in terms of experiencing true fellowship.

### Closing the Lesson:

Ask your students to identify someone in their daily life who they could really encourage and strengthen in this next coming week. Encourage them to "do good to...the household of faith"

### Evaluation:

Encourage your students to be involved somewhere where they are experiencing some real good fellowship. A church would be a great place but be sensitive to their family's religious preferences. Here are some questions to see if your students have grasped the fellowship concept:

1. Of all of the components of the fruit of the Spirit, which would you say should be the most evident in our relationships with other believers?
2. Do you think it's possible to love God and to not love our brother at the same time?
3. How can fellowshiping with other Christians keep us from getting "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin?"
4. Why do you think Christ was so concerned that His disciples be unified and so like-minded?