

### **Faith in Community**

**Theme:** God designed us to grow stronger together.

### **Focus Verse:**

Matthew 18:20 – "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

### **Other Scriptures Mentioned:**

Acts 2:42–47

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

Hebrews 10:24–25

# **Devotional Thought**

God never meant for us to live our faith alone. From the very beginning, He created people to need one another, to share life, worship, and encouragement. The early church in Acts 2 gives us a beautiful example: believers met together daily, shared what they had, prayed for each other, and celebrated God's goodness as one big family.

When we choose to walk with others in faith, something powerful happens... Our joy grows, our burdens become lighter, and our faith gets stronger. Just like a single stick can break easily but a bundle of sticks is nearly impossible to snap, we're stronger when we stand together.

God's design for community reminds us that we need both encouragement and accountability. Sometimes that means being honest when someone we love is struggling. Other times it means letting people see our own struggles and allowing them to pray with us. Faith in community means being real, being connected, and letting God work through our relationships.

## **Scripture Focus**

### Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."



#### Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NIV)

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

#### Hebrews 10:24–25 (NIV)

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

## **Talk About It**

- 1. What does it mean to have "faith in community"?
- 2. Why do you think God wants us to worship and grow with others?
- 3. How can we help encourage other people in our church, school, or family this week?
- 4. What are some ways our family can be like the early church in Acts 2?
- 5. Who has been a spiritual mentor or encourager in your life? How did God use them?

## Weekly Challenge

Find a spiritual mentor or be one for someone else. Pray with them, talk about what God is teaching you, or check in once a week to encourage each other in faith.

# **Family Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for creating us to live in community. Help our family to be like the believers in Acts 2, devoted to Your Word, to prayer, and to one another. Show us ways to encourage our friends and church family and to help each other grow closer to You. Remind us that we are never alone because You are always with us and You've placed people in our lives to walk beside us. In Jesus' name, amen.