



Chapter Two

Part 8 – Unity

Discussion Guide

The early church was simply built on unity. It was engrained in who they were and what they did every single day. It did not happen accidentally. They had the Old Testament Law, and they were learning about Jesus from the apostles who had walked with Him. So how did they develop such a level of unity that they were willing to sell their possessions for the church? To answer that, let's look at John, chapter 17.

What you will need: A Bible or your Bible app, a notebook, pen, and highlighter. The verses highlighted for you below are linked so that you can easily access them during your study time.)

Jump Start

1. Over the years, many things have changed in the world, in our families, even in how we see the world. What is the one thing that has changed about you this year?
2. Read [John 17:20-22 and 2 Corinthians 4:5](#). In some way, we all want to be needed and to be known. To satisfy that desire, we can become selfish. What are the steps that you take to live a life where people see, feel, and hear the love of God from you? What keeps you humble and seeking God?
3. Read [John 17:23, and John 13:35](#). True unity comes when the purpose is prioritized over the individual. Recall a time where you pursued unity over your personal opinion. What was the outcome? As a Life Group, what is something that you are unified about?
4. Read [John 17:1, Matthew 28:17-20, and Acts 2:42-47](#). Consider these barriers to unity: not attending the weekly service (in-person/virtual), omitting your daily quiet time, not taking care of your body and mind, forgetting gratitude, not praying. Which of these, or another, do you feel like you need to work on right now? How can you prioritize your life so that it is focused on the purpose of seeing people come to faith in Christ through your daily life and actions?
5. Read [John 17:4-5](#) This main teaching of the message was summed up this way: “Individual sacrifice, out of submission to a purpose, creates unity.” What was your biggest personal take away from this message? What are you going to do next to pursue unity in your marriage, relationships, serving, in your parenting, and workplace?

Deeper

Hey there! Here at The Cove, our mission is to Introduce our friends to Jesus, Learn to follow Him, and Celebrate His Presence in our lives. We want you to be fully equipped with the Word of God by spending time with Him daily through prayer, and studying His Word. We believe that is how you will be equipped to make disciples.

Before studying any book of the Bible, it is worthwhile to gather background information in order to understand the historical context of the book. In our “Deeper” study, we will be studying the Bible through [Inductive Bible Study](#). Utilizing this method, we will be able to grasp the context of how the scripture was written in order to better interpret and live out what the Bible is teaching us. We will also be using the [Matthew Henry Commentary](#) and the [Strong's Concordance](#). A Bible commentary

aids in the study of Scripture by providing explanation and interpretation of Biblical text. A Concordance is to guide you to any passage by means of an alphabetical arrangement of the words found in Scripture, and the bringing together under each word of all the passages in which that word occurs. This will take time. So pace yourself over the week to fully understand. Spend time in prayer and asking God what He is trying to reveal to you, and what your next steps are.

The Book we will be studying is Acts. Specifically [Acts 2](#):

We will answer the following questions: Here are some additional resources to help guide you in your deeper study of God's Word: [Acts Intro](#), [The Bible Project](#), [Matthew Henry Acts Commentary](#), and [Strong's Concordance](#). (To utilize the Concordance, just tap a word and it will define it for you.)

1. Who wrote the book of Acts?
2. Who was the original audience?
3. When was it written?
4. What are the prominent themes?
5. What are the repeated words in [Acts 2](#)?
6. What is the historical, literary, and Biblical context?

Note: [How To Read The Bible](#) (scroll down to the bottom for additional video explanations)

7. Is there a truth about God I need to remember in this passage?
8. What is the author trying to teach his original audience? Is there sin to flee in this passage?
9. Does the passage [Acts 2](#) include any prominent biblical theology themes?
10. How does this passage connect to the gospel? What aspect of the gospel is highlighted?

Note: [What is the Gospel?](#) (Scroll down the page for deeper understanding)

11. How does this passage point to Christ? Does it speak explicitly of Jesus?
12. What applications can you make?
13. What actions should you take?
14. What conclusion can you draw?