

# Study 2: Church Life, Ministry, & Prayer

*The early believers understood that Jesus had called them out to be unique people for His name (1 Peter 2:9-10). This unique people were called His church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and they met regularly in local assemblies (Hebrews 10:24-25). They met each other's needs and prayed fervently for each other.*

## A. Ministry: Ministering to the needs of others

Read Acts 2:42-47.

1. What are the four key activities in which these early believers engaged? (v. 42)
2. Fellowship was more than "going to church." The root meaning of the word comes from a word meaning "to share." What are some of the ways early Christians shared with (served) each other in the Church? (Those who served are called ministers, what they were doing is called ministries.)
3. Has God called you to be a minister? (Ephesians 4:11-12, 16)
4. What are some ways you can help meet the needs of members of the body? (Romans 12:3-13)

### Conclusion

In which of these areas might you have a desire to share?

- > Do you need further equipping in order to be able to serve?
- > How can you get this equipping?

## B. Prayer

Read John 14:12-14 and 16:23-27.

Everyone should be involved in the ministry of prayer in serving others.

1. What is prayer?
  - > What are some reasons why we should pray?
  - > Are there any restrictions on God's promise to answer our prayers? What are they? (James 4:1-4)
2. Jesus prayed privately as well as with others (corporately). What are some benefits of corporate prayer? What are some benefits of private prayer?

### Conclusion

Some people find it helpful to actually construct a prayer list to remind them of prayer needs. You may find it helpful to write individual needs on index cards or in a notebook and record Scripture promises for each, as well as answers as they happen. If you desire to do this, you can do it one of two ways:

- > Use the above list to pray for yourself and others allowing the Holy Spirit to focus your prayers on those for whom He wishes you to pray.
- > Make a list of people who need your prayers and list specific needs for which you can pray for each one. Keep the list of needs in mind as you pray.