

## **The P.O.W.E.R. of Group Times**

**“Encourage each other and build each other up” (1 Thess 5:11).**

Real Christianity is learned and lived with your best friends

### **Understanding biblical fellowship**

- Biblical fellowship is living for Christ with your best friends. (Acts 2:42-46)
- This is necessary to obey the over 50 “one another” commands in the NT.

### **Authentic Christianity vs. American Christianity**

- The absence of close friendships in our local churches is one of the biggest differences between American Christianity and the Authentic Christianity of the first Christians. (John 13:34 NIV).
- You cannot, you will not, do biblical Christianity without the power of the Holy Spirit.
- It is important to understand that God wants you to have friendships beyond your family.
- God made Authentic Christianity a team sport.

### **Why pursue biblical fellowship?**

- A vital part of God’s plan for your spiritual growth is best friends in your local church who are pursuing the “one another” commands with you. (1 Thess 5:11; Heb 3:13; Prov 13:20).
- God knows how to change your life, and He says you cannot do it alone. Loving people and sharing your life with others has its risks.
- Sharing your life with others encourages you to be HUMBLE. (1 Pet 5:5-6).

### **How to pursue biblical fellowship**

- At New Life, we encourage you to begin with a Barnabas Group.
- If you are interested in a Barnabas Group, there is a brochure in the front foyer.

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?
- 2) How would you describe what biblical fellowship is like?
- 3) Why does biblical fellowship require being controlled by the Holy Spirit?
- 4) Have you experienced the risks and potential hurts in pursuing biblical fellowship? How did God help you?
- 5) What can you do to pursue biblical fellowship better?