

### FOCUSING ON FELLOWSHIP

*(Timothy) Until I get back there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.*

1 Timothy 4:13 (NLT)

❖ Fellowship is PLAYING Together:

*The disciples shooed the children off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: "Don't push these children away. Don't ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom..." Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.*

Mark 10:14-16 (MSG)

1. Children LEARN best through play.

*Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents.*

Ephesians 5:1 (MSG)

2. Children PRACTICE for ADULTHOOD through play.

*It's like this: When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.*

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)

3. Families BUILD RELATIONSHIPS through play.

*My children, listen to me... Pay attention and grow wise, for I am giving you good guidance... For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved by my mother... My father told me, "Take my words to heart. Follow my instructions and you will live."*

Proverbs 4:1-4 (NLT)

❖ Fellowship is WALKING Together:

*"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."*

Matthew 18:19 (NIV)

1. Because it is SAFER.

*Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:25 (LB)

2. It makes us STRONGER.

*As each part does its work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

3. It makes us SMARTER.

*When you gather... each one of you be prepared with something that will be useful for all: Sing a hymn, teach a lesson, tell a story, lead a prayer, provide an insight... Take your turn, no one person taking over. Then... you all learn from each other.*

1 Corinthians 14:26-31 (MSG)

- KEY TRUTH: Fellowship is God's Answer to LONELINESS.

*"It is not good for man to be alone."*

Genesis 2:18: (NLT)

- ❖ Fellowship is WORKING Together:

*God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing.*

Ephesians 2:10 (NCV)

1. When we work together, we ACCOMPLISH more.

*Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together.*

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NCV)

2. When we work together, GOD promises to be with us.

*"When two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."*

Matthew 18:20 (MSG)

3. When we work together, we PROCLAIM JESUS to the world.

*"May they (the church) be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent Me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

John 17:23 (NIV)

- KEY TRUTH: Fellowship is God's Answer to FATIGUE.

*"Moses, this is not good! You're going to wear yourself out—and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself... But select capable men from all the people... they will share it with you. If you do this you will be able to stand the strain"*

Exodus 18:17-18, 21-23 (NLT)