

**DEFINING MARKS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:
Experiencing Community**

Each person experiencing Biblical community within the church family

Read Acts 2:41-47

What makes community “Biblical”?

1. The people are committed to God's _____. (v. 42, 1 Tim. 3:16)
2. The people are committed to _____ in loving relationships. (v. 42, 44, 45, 46; Heb. 10:24-25)
3. The people are committed to the finished work of Christ on the cross by remembering Him through the _____. (v. 42)
4. The people are committed to _____ and _____ dependence on the Lord. (v. 42, 47; 1 Thess. 5:16-17)
5. In what ways does our church look like this?

What are the marks of Biblical Community? How do we know that it is occurring?

1. People sense the hand of _____. When people meet, they feel like the Holy Spirit has been present. (v. 43)
2. People's _____ are being met. (v. 44-45; Gal. 6:2)
3. People are _____ in each other's lives. They are integrating Body life with daily life. (v. 46; Jn. 13:35)
4. People are _____ in Christ (v. 47)
5. Do you think that Biblical community was occurring in this church of 3000 people? Is it possible for HPH to experience similar community yet grow in a God honoring way?

Evaluation:

1. Do you desire deeper Biblical community? What are the biggest hindrances in your life that keep you from experiencing Biblical community with the church family?
2. What role does God have for you in Biblical Community? Should Small Groups play in facilitating Biblical community?
3. What are you willing to do or not do to help yourself and others experience it? What role does “simplifying your life” play?
4. (At Small Group gathering) How is our Small Group doing? What are some key components of community that you see in our Small Group? What might be missing or need improvement?