

Vine  
A Visionary Series



Lesson 2  
We are Better Together

Core Value number 5

We are Better Together

We are convinced that life is not meant to be lived alone, and we are committed to building a culture of authentic community. We recognize our innate need for each other, and we create environments to connect in a real way. (Eccl 4:9-12, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42, Proverbs 27:17)

*Acts 2:42* They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. *New International Version*

*Acts 2:46* Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. *New International Version*

*Acts 20:20* You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. *New International Version*

What connect groups will do to enhance your Christian walk

1. Allows us to fulfill our only commandment

*John 13:34* So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other**. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. *35* Your **love for one another** will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” *New Living Translation-SE*

What connect groups will do to enhance your Christian walk

2. Build biblical relationships

We all tend to loosely interact with about 30 people?

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3. Protects you

*Ecclesiastes 4:9* Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: *10* **If either of them falls down, one can help the other up**. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. *11* Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? *12* Though one may be overpowered, **two can defend themselves**. A cord of three strands is **not quickly broken**. *New International Version*

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4. Provides a platform for encouragement

*Hebrews 10:24* And let us consider how **we may spur one another** on toward love and good deeds, *25* not giving up **meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing but **encouraging one another**—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *New International Version*

What connect groups will do to enhance your Christian walk

5. A tool to reach unchurched people

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6. Develops true disciples by mentoring and being mentored

We may attract attenders in our weekend services, but disciples are made in small groups.

*Matthew 28:18* Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *19* Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *20* and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” *New International Version*

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7. Cultivates leaders