

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, ⁴⁷ 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?

What connect groups will do to enhance your Christian walk

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*

What connect groups will do to enhance your Christian walk

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