

Discussion Starter – Not many of us experience physical danger on a daily basis. What spiritual danger do we constantly face? How does fellowship help?

The Call to Fellowship (1 John 4:19-21)

- How are loving God and keeping His commandments connected? Is it supposed to be difficult to follow God's command to love? Read Psalm 37:4-5. Discuss the insights you have gained from this passage.
- How does personal difficulty affect our relationships? How does working through problems together affect our relationship with each other?
- How does loving God enable our desire to love others?
- Why do people believe they can love God and not be in fellowship with other believers? Can we love Jesus and not be connected to other believers?
- Do you think that God provides a desire to be in fellowship with other believers? What role does fellowship have in your life?

Benefits of Fellowship (1 John 5:1-3)

- What does loving fellow Christians look like? Why is this important to you?
- Loving fellow believers is not burdensome, but can it be difficult? What is the difference?
- How does fellowship affect our relationship with God?
- How does isolation (very little fellowship) affect our relationship with God?
- How does serving other people affect our mind-set?
- What should we expect in return for loving other believers? What should we expect from God?
- Why does being hurt by Christian brothers and sisters seem to leave a deeper wound to us? Are our expectations of other believers reasonable? Is our standard too high? How do you react to being hurt by other believers?
- What are three things we learned from the sermon that we should do when we are wronged? Why are these three things so important?