

BACK ON TRACK

TALK IT OVER

Staying on Track With Community

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February 7-8, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures Used

Acts 2:42–47, Ephesians 4:14–16, Genesis 2:18, Hebrews 3:12–13, 1 Thessalonians 1:7–8

Questions:

1. Share a time in your life when your church, neighborhood, school or other community supported you?
2. Acts 2:42–47 (NIV) says, “*They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 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, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*” What stands out most to you in this passage, and what would you like to experience more of? How does being in a community of believers help us stay the course in our faith?
3. In Acts 2:42–43 what did the believers devote themselves to, and how did this fuel their commitment to growth? What steps can you take this week to become more devoted to these practices in your community?
4. Read Acts 2:44–45. Ephesians 4:14–16 (NIV) says, “*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole*

body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." According to the passages, why do we need each other? How can you help someone in your community?

5. Acts 2:46–47 demonstrates how community multiplies the reach of our lives. How has being in community with other believers enhanced or expanded your life? What are some ways your group can influence the broader community to draw others in?
6. Genesis 2:18 (NIV) says, "*The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'*" No one becomes the best version of themselves by themselves. In what ways are you trying to do life alone? How is this limiting your growth or even damaging you? What steps will you take to become more connected in your church community?
7. Community isn't just where purpose is discovered, but it's also where purpose is lived out. Find a small group today: <https://saddleback.com/groups/find-a-group>.

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment in your small group. This assessment will help you see how your small group is balancing the five purposes and will give you suggested next steps for each purpose. Click here to take the Group Health Assessment:
<https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>
2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to check out Saddleback's ever-growing library of small group curricula.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.