

WEEK 3:
NOVEMBER 20

THE COMMITTED COMMUNITY OF THE CHURCH
MATTHEW 12:46-50

FELLOWSHIP

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

*For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and sister and mother.*

Matthew 12:50

MONDAY

Read Matthew 12:46-50

What does it mean to you to be considered a mother or brother or sister of Jesus? How does being defined as a family member in relation to one another affect your attitude toward others?

TUESDAY

John Sowers says, “Paul describes how, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are to act with each other.” These are our ‘family rules.’

Read Ephesians 4:25-32 & 5:1-2

Pray—ask God to show you one “family rule” from these verses for you to work on.

Reread Ephesians 4:25-32 & 5:1-2 listening for God’s invitation of where to focus.

WEDNESDAY

Read John 13:34-35

Our community with one another consists solely in what Christ has done to both of us... Will not the very moment of great disillusionment with my brother or sister be incomparably wholesome for me because it so thoroughly teaches me that both of us can never live by our own words and deeds, but only by that one Word and deed that really binds us together, the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ?

Receive and give forgiveness today.

THURSDAY—THANKSGIVING DAY

Read John 17

If we do not give thanks daily for Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ.

You have an open door today to express thankfulness, so go out of your way to speak words of appreciation to people and to God.

FRIDAY

Read Romans 12:5

The prisoner, the sick person, the Christian in exile sees in the companionship of a fellow Christian a physical sign of the gracious presence of the triune God. Visitor and visited in loneliness recognize in each other the Christ who is present in the body; they receive and meet each other as one meets the Lord, in reverence, humility, and joy. They receive each other’s benedictions as the benediction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who do you know that might be longing for some Christian fellowship? Let God prompt you to call or visit someone in particular today? Also, take time to pray for that person.

The text in italics are quotes from Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer