



Every day [all the believers] continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:46

Don't forget your team

It's game day. You know what you have to do, so you get out on the court or field to face your opponents. Then you realize something's wrong. You're all by yourself. The other team is there, looming over you like a dark storm cloud from the other end of the field. However, not one of your teammates can be seen. Not on the court. Not on the bench. Nowhere. You have no one on your side.

Do you ever feel like that is your spiritual situation? Maybe you feel like the only Christian at your school facing the whole science department that teaches evolution as truth. Maybe you're the only one at your job who doesn't want to take a longer break than allowed. Maybe you're the only one at a party who doesn't want to drink because you're underage.

In those situations, you may feel alone and unable to handle the pressure. You know his promise to always be with you, yet the present situation makes you question God's presence.

That's one of the reasons God surrounds us with the church and puts other Christians in our lives. God does not want us to be alone. He wants us to be together.

God equips your Christian friends to help you through all kinds of life's problems, earthly or spiritual. Whether you have questions about the Bible or about your homework, whether you're trying to pick a college or what to wear to school tomorrow, Christian friends can help because they (like you) know where to find answers to life's critical questions. Christian brothers and sisters can remind you of God's promises and give encouragement, comfort, or even correction from God's Word. And not only do you get to enjoy these benefits, but to share them! God calls you to be that encouraging, supportive Christian friend to others too.

Most importantly, when you do crack under the pressure and give in to sin, your Christian friends are there to point you to Jesus. Your Christian friends are there to show and give you Jesus's forgiveness. His perfect life and innocent death paid the penalty for all your sins. That's the message you need to hear most of all. That's also the message your friends need to hear from you most of all.

Do you have Christian friends? Thank God for them! Surround yourself with them. Then be one for them!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for blessing me with Christian friends so we can encourage each other to stay close to you. Forgive me for the times I haven't been the friend you want me to be. Thank you for being the perfect friend. Amen.