

## Introduction

Role models are so important. As we are growing up, we see a Peyton Manning or some other famous athlete, and say, “I want to be just like them.” We wear their jerseys. Some of these athletes have been great role models, while others have been less than ideal. None-the-less, they are role models for us. Advertisers know this and take advantage of it. They pay them large sums of money to advertise Papa John’s pizza or Nationwide Insurance. They know that these role models have a big influence on people, so they try to capitalize on that.

The churches in the book of Acts serve as a role model for me. Every church is different. The church in Jerusalem was different than the church in Antioch. Our East Mountain Vineyard Church will look different than both of those churches. But, the churches in Acts all serve as role models for us. There are things that I see in these churches that cause me to say, “I want to be just like them.”

**The early church was of one mind.** They had unity. I desire unity, and that has been one of my goals ever since our church began. In fact, the first message series was on unity. The early church had unity, and serves as a great role model and example for us. I want us to be like the early church and have unity. I want to be just like them.

(Acts 1:14a) “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer...”

(Acts 2:46a) “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple...”

**The early church was devoted to the apostles’ teaching.** They had a love for the word of God. I want us to have a love for God’s word, and to be devoted to God’s word. I want to be just like them.

(Acts 2:42) “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

**The early church was devoted to fellowship.** Coming together was a priority to them. They met together in the temple, and they met in homes. People today take church pretty lightly. They skip church to play golf, watch a game, sleep in, or clean house. To the early church, fellowship was a priority. I want us to be devoted to fellowship. I want to be just like them.

**The early church was devoted to prayer.** They gathered together and prayed when there was just a hundred and twenty. As the church grew, they continued to gather together and pray. They had daily prayer meetings. I am open to how our church prays. It does not have to be once a month on the last Sunday. It does not have to be part of our regular service. I have asked people what would it look like for the Lord to say about our church that we are devoted to prayer. What does that look like individually, and what does that look like corporately. The early church is a wonderful role model, and I want us to be like them.

**The early church went around preaching the gospel.** Everyone was sharing the gospel. They were bold witnesses. People were being added to the church daily. Most church growth today comes from people moving from one church to another, not as a result of people coming to Christ. I want to follow the role model of the early church. I want us to be a church that shares Christ with others, and sees people being added to the church daily. “I want to be just like them.”

**The early church was full of the Holy Spirit.** When you pray, worship, evangelize, and are of one accord, God pours out His Spirit. I want to see the house shake and for everyone to be filled with the Holy Spirit after we pray. I want to see us filled with the Holy Spirit as we worship the Lord. I want to see the Holy Spirit move and for people to be healed, saved, and delivered. I want to hear prophetic utterances. I want our church to be full of the Holy Spirit. I want to be just like them.

All of these things are possibly. In fact, all of these things have been recorded in the Scriptures to give us an example. How this looks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century may be different than in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but the principles are still the same. The early church is a great example to us. We want to be just like them.

Our passage today is Acts 9:19-31. Paul has just received Christ, and Luke gives us an account of his first days as a Christian in Damascus, and then an account of his time in Jerusalem. Both accounts give us a picture of life in the early church. In these two brief accounts, I see four characteristics of their fellowship. I see the priority of fellowship. Second, I see the protection of fellowship. Third, I see the proclamation of fellowship. Finally, I see the product of fellowship. As I read, it causes a desire in me to be just like them, which is what I have entitled the message. Let's read our text for today.

### **Just Like Them**

1. Priority of fellowship (vs 19, 26-28) (with disciples in Damascus, with disciples in Jerusalem)
2. Protection of fellowship (vs 23-25, 26-28, 30) (Damascus escape, Jerusalem arrival and escape)
3. Proclamation of fellowship (vs 20-21, 27-29) (He is the Son of God, Jesus is the Christ)
4. Product of fellowship (vs 31) (Peace, built up, comfort of Holy Spirit, continued to increase)

(Acts 9:19-31) "and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, {20} and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." {21} All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" {22} But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ. {23} When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, {24} but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; {25} but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket. {26} When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. {27} But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. {28} And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. {29} And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. {30} But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus. {31} So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."

1. **Priority of fellowship** (vs 19, 26-28)

Our account today starts with Paul in Damascus, and the first thing that we notice is that he is with the disciples. **Fellowship was a priority to Paul.** After placing his faith in Christ, it was the first thing that he did. He spent time with the disciples. Just as it was a priority for Paul, it should be a priority for all of us. Spending time with one another should be one of the highest priorities for us.

(Acts 9:19) “and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,”

He was not there just for one meeting during the week. He was with the disciples for several days. He is getting immersed in fellowship with the other believers. He is getting to know them, and they are getting to know him. You get to know someone when you spend lots of time with them. When you take meals together, you get to have conversations that don't happen at other times. In addition to the meal times, Paul had lots of other time with the disciples. There was time to share what God was speaking and doing in each others lives.

God has called us to be with one another. Fellowship is a priority for all of us. We need to be with each other in small groups. If you are not part of a small group, let me strongly encourage you to get involved in one. You need it, and other people need fellowship with you. We need to be with each other in corporate services. We should arrive early and fellowship. We should stay after the service and fellowship with others. Just showing up at ten o'clock and leaving immediately afterwards does not allow you to have time to fellowship. God tells us in Hebrews 10:24-25 that we need to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. True fellowship will take some consideration, thought, and prayer in advance of being with people. But, it will also require doing what Paul did, being with the disciples. It must be a priority.

(Heb 10:24-25) “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, {25} not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

God also tells us in Hebrews that we are not to forsake the assembling together as is the habit of some. I am afraid that there are lots of people today that forsake the assembling together. Some have been hurt in the past, and need healing. Forsaking the assembling is not the answer. They need healing from those hurts, but forsaking the assembling together is not what brings healing. Some people just do not have a love for others. They need to ask God to help them grow in their ability to love others. Forsaking the assembling together is not going to help people grow in their love for one another. **We need to follow the example of Paul and spend time with the disciples.**

When Paul goes to Jerusalem, the first thing he tried to do was associate with the disciples. It was his first priority. He made every effort to associate with the disciples, but there was a problem. Paul is the one that had put many of their friends and family members to death or in prison. There was a lack of trust. Do you know that it is impossible to build relationships when there is no trust. When there has been a breach of trust, it must be re-established before a relationship can develop.

(Acts 9:26) “When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.”

## 18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

Barnabas understood the importance of trust in building relationships. He took hold of Paul and brought him to the apostles and described Paul's conversion experience to them. Then, he shared how Paul had been speaking out boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Barnabas gave a good report about Paul. Barnabas was respected and trusted by the apostles and the church, so his testimony opened the door for Paul to associate with the disciples. Luke goes on to say that he was with them. Just as he was with the saints in Damascus, Paul is with the saints in Jerusalem. It was a priority to them. Paul was able to move about freely among the saints in Jerusalem, and he spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord.

(Acts 9:27-28) "But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. {28} And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord."

Are you involved in a small group? Are you involved in Ladies ministry? Are you involved in Men's Ministry? Are you involved in youth group? Do you come early to services and fellowship? Do you stay after service to fellowship? Do you invite others to come to your house and share a meal together? Is fellowship with the other members of the body a priority in your life? The early church is a role model for us. We want to be just like the early church. We want to be just like them.

### 2. Protection of fellowship (vs 23-25, 26-28, 30)

We saw the priority of fellowship. Next, we see the protection of the fellowship. We see several different examples of this protection. The first example is at Damascus. Paul began to boldly testify that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He is the Christ. He confounded or confused the Jews, and they did not know how to answer him. The Jews plotted to do away with him. Luke clarifies what that meant in the next verse; they were going to put him to death. When the disciples heard about it, they took Paul by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket. They protected Paul and helped him escape. They thwarted the plot of the Jews.

(Acts 9:20-25) "and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God... {22} But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ. {23} When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, {24} but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; {25} but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a large basket."

That is what believers should do for one another. **Believers should protect one another.** We should protect one another physically. We should protect one another's reputation. We should look out for one another. Believers should not be gossiping or slandering one another. We should not uncover and hurt one another with our words. We should be protecting one another. When we become aware of someone trying to murder us with their words, we should protect our brother.

Before we move to the second example of protection in the fellowship, I want to make a quick point about discipleship. In verse 25, we find that "his disciples" took him by night. Some versions say "the disciples," but most versions say "his disciples." Paul has not been a believer very long and he already has started making disciples. Paul not only proclaimed the gospel, but he made disciples. The Great

## 18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

Commission was to go and make disciples. Later on in Paul's ministry he wrote a letter to the Colossians. In it he said, "we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Paul gave everything he had to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. That is a great pattern for all of us to follow.

(Col 1:28-29) "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. {29} For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

The second example of the protection of fellowship is after Paul arrives in Jerusalem. Because fellowship was a priority, he immediately tries to associate (kollao, Strong's G2853) with the disciples. Kollao means to glue together. It is the word used for cleave or join together in marriage. (See Matthew 19:6.) Many people in the church velcro themselves to the church. They are lightly attached, and can peel off anytime. Paul tried to glue himself to the saints in Jerusalem. Have you glued yourself to the church? Have you glued yourself to a Life Group where you can have lasting relationships? If we want to follow the example of Paul and the early church, we need to be glued together in fellowship.

(Acts 9:26) "When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate (kollao) with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple."

But, he was unable to associate with them. He was not trusted by them because of his former reputation. The disciples in Jerusalem were looking out for one another, and until someone could be trusted, they did not have the freedom to come and go among the saints. They protected one another. We find that same type of protection in the 10/40 window today. In the Muslim countries, they put Christians to death. The believers are always on guard, and until someone has earned their trust, they are kept at a distance.

It was not until Barnabas took Paul to the apostles and vouched for him that he was allowed to move about freely among the saints in Jerusalem. The doors to fellowship were locked until the apostles gave their approval, and the golden key to fellowship.

(Acts 9:27-28) "But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. {28} And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord."

The third example of protection is after Paul had talked and argued with the Hellenistic Jews. Just like the Jews in Damascus tried to put him to death, the Jews in Jerusalem also tried to put him to death. When the disciples heard of the plot, they brought him to Caesarea and sent him to Tarsus. They protected Paul from the plots. There was tremendous protection for one another in the church. That is what I want for our church. I want the church to be a safe place for people. I want us to protect one another. I want to be just like them.

### **3. Proclamation of fellowship** (vs 20-21, 27-29) (He is the Son of God, Jesus is the Christ)

## 18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

First, we saw the priority of fellowship. Second, we saw the protection of fellowship. Third, we find the proclamation of the fellowship. As soon as Paul receives Christ and is baptized, he begins to profess Christ. He proclaimed in the synagogue that Jesus is the Son of God. He did not take a class in evangelism, or wait for a sermon on evangelism. **Paul immediately began to share the gospel.**

(Acts 9:19-20) “and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, {20} and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God.”

This is not unusual. **When someone’s life is changed, it is normal to be excited and tell others.** I have said for a long time that we get evangelism backwards. We tell people to go share the gospel, and it is a chore. It is an activity that they must do. I believe we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to touch people. It may be healing. It may be a prophetic word. It may be a word of knowledge. When people experience a touch from God, they get excited and tell others. Let’s look at a few examples.

When Jesus shared with the woman at the well in John 4, He shared words of knowledge about her life. He told her that she had five husbands, and the one she is with now is not her husband. She answered saying, “I perceive you are a prophet.”

(John 4:17-19) “The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus \*said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; {18} for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly." {19} The woman \*said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”

Afterwards, the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and began sharing with everyone, “come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?” So the men went out of the city and came to Jesus. She did not take Evangelism Explosion at church. She did not hear a message on sharing her testimony. She received a word of knowledge and was touched by the Holy Spirit. She immediately went out and began proclaiming that Jesus was the Christ.

(John 4:28-30) “So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and \*said to the men, {29} "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?" {30} They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.”

In the case of the demoniac in Luke 8, he was delivered from the legion of demons. Afterwards, he asked Jesus if he could accompany Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you.” So, the man went away proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. He did not take a class in evangelism. He was touched by God, got excited, and began sharing with everyone.

(Luke 8:38-39) “But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, {39} "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.”

Or, how about the deaf and dumb man in Mark 7. After his ears were opened and the impediment of his tongue was removed, he got really excited about his healing. Jesus gave orders to him not to tell

## 18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

anyone, but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it. When people get touched by the Holy Spirit, they get excited and they can't help from sharing with others what God has done. We need to see more people touched by God. Evangelism will be fun and natural when we see God touch lives.

(Mark 7:35-36) "And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly. {36} And He gave them orders not to tell anyone; but the more He ordered them, the more widely they continued to proclaim it."

Luke goes on to say that Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

(Acts 9:22) "But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ."

**We are all called to always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks us to give account for the hope that is in us.** The word for defense is apologia (Strong's G626), which means a speech given in defense. We get our English word, apologetics from this Greek word. Apologetics is the branch of Christianity that deals with the defense and establishment of the Christian faith. Paul knew the Scriptures well and could prove by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

(1 Peter 3:15) "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

Once Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he did not stop professing Christ. Starting in verse 28, Luke says that Paul moved about freely in Jerusalem and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenistic Jews, even though they attempted to put him to death. The word for witness in the Greek is martus (Strong's G3144). It literally means to testify unto one's death. Paul was boldly witnessing even in the face of being put to death. He was a true witness.

(Acts 9:28-29) "And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord. {29} And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death."

**All of us are called to witness.** Jesus told the apostles in Acts 1:8 that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them and they shall be his witnesses (martus) in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth. We are Christ's witnesses.

(Acts 1:8) "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**4. Product of fellowship** (vs 31) (Peace, built up, comfort of Holy Spirit, continued to increase)

We have seen the priority of fellowship, the protection of fellowship, the proclamation of fellowship, and finally we see the product of fellowship. Luke brings this passage to a close by saying, “so the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.” The end result of the believers uniting together in fellowship, protecting one another, and boldly giving witness that Jesus is the Christ, there were some blessings that they enjoyed.

(Acts 9:31) “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”

First, **the church enjoyed peace**. They enjoyed peace with God, and they enjoyed peace with one another. The Greek word is *eirene*, and the root word is *eiro*, which means to join. When a man and wife are joined together as man and wife, they are one. When we gather together as a body, we are one body. Paul gave a strong word to the church at Corinth because he heard there were factions and divisions. God wants His body to be joined together as one body. The end result when people are joined together is peace. All the strife is gone. All the divisions are gone. They reconcile their differences and become one. They enter into peace. We know that when brothers dwell together in unity, God commands His blessing. The first product of their fellowship was peace.

(Psalm 133:1-3) "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! {2} It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, Even Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. {3} It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever.”

**The second product was that they were built up**. The Greek word for built up is *oikodomeo* (Strong's 3620b). Literally, it means to put a roof over a house. You build up a house to put a roof on it. Normally, this is translated as edify or edification, but occasionally it is translated as built up. Ephesians 4:29 is a good example of where this word is used. Paul tells us to not let any unwholesome word proceed from our mouths, but only such a word that is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. When we join together in fellowship, our words need to build up or edify people. Words that are unwholesome, rotten, or tear others down should be stopped before they come out of our mouths. Only words that build up others and give them grace should be shared. When this kind of sharing takes place, the body is built up.

(Eph 4:29) “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification (*oikodomeo*) according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.”

There are other ways that people are built up. Paul writes in Acts 20:32, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give to you an inheritance. People are built up through going to God in prayer and worship. People are built up through the Word of God. I want to be a church that goes to God in prayer and worship. I want to be a church that spends time in the word. I want to be like the early church that is built up. I want to be like them.

(Acts 20:32) “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to



## 18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

build you up (oikodomeo) and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

We are built up through prophecy. The purpose of prophecy in the church is to edify or build up the church. In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul says that praying in the Spirit builds up an individual, but prophecy edifies the whole body. Therefore, we are encouraged to earnestly desire the greater gifts, especially prophecy.

(1 Cor 14:1-4) “Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. {2} For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. {3} But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. {4} One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.”

The church went on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God was there. The Vineyard has a saying about being a “people of His presence.” That is because we have a great history of being a church that worships the Lord. Prayer and worship usher in the presence of the Lord.

**The final product of their fellowship was they continued to increase.** When you have great fellowship and unity, when people feel safe and secure, and when the gospel is being boldly preached, the church will increase.

Let’s pray.

18 Just Like Them (Acts 9:19-31)

**Introduction** (Acts 9:19-31)

- The early church was of \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 1:14a, 2:46a)
- The early church was devoted to the apostles' \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:42)
- The early church was devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church was devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church went around preaching the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church was full of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**1. Priority of fellowship** (Acts 9:19, 26-28)

- Fellowship was a \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul. (Acts 9:19, Heb 10:24-25)
- We need to follow the example of Paul and spend \_\_\_\_\_ with the disciples. (Acts 9:26-28)

**2. Protection of fellowship** (Acts 9:23-25, 26-28, 30, Col 1:28-29)

- Believers should \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

**3. Proclamation of fellowship** (Acts 9:20-22, 27-29)

- Paul immediately began to share the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 9:19-20)
- When someone's life is \_\_\_\_\_, it is normal to be excited and tell others. (John 4:17-19, 4:28-30, Luke 8:38-39, Mark 7:35-36)
- We are all called to always be ready to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who asks us to give account for the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15)
- All of us are called to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:8)

**4. Product of fellowship** (Acts 9:31)

First, the church enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 133:1-3)

The second product was that they were \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph 4:29, Acts 20:32)

The final product of their fellowship was they continued to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Introduction** (Acts 9:19-31)

- The early church was of \_\_\_\_\_ . (Acts 1:14a, 2:46a)
- The early church was devoted to the apostles' \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:42)
- The early church was devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church was devoted to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church went around preaching the \_\_\_\_\_ .
- The early church was full of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**1. Priority of fellowship** (Acts 9:19, 26-28)

- Fellowship was a \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul. (Acts 9:19, Heb 10:24-25)
- We need to follow the example of Paul and spend \_\_\_\_\_ with the disciples. (Acts 9:26-28)

**2. Protection of fellowship** (Acts 9:23-25, 26-28, 30, Col 1:28-29)

- Believers should \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

**3. Proclamation of fellowship** (Acts 9:20-22, 27-29)

- Paul immediately began to share the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 9:19-20)
- When someone's life is \_\_\_\_\_, it is normal to be excited and tell others. (John 4:17-19, 4:28-30, Luke 8:38-39, Mark 7:35-36)
- We are all called to always be ready to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who asks us to give account for the hope that is in us. (1 Peter 3:15)
- All of us are called to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 1:8)

**4. Product of fellowship** (Acts 9:31)

First, the church enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 133:1-3)

The second product was that they were \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph 4:29, Acts 20:32)

The final product of their fellowship was they continued to \_\_\_\_\_.