



## THINK IT THROUGH

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Do you have a tendency to behave like you are self - sufficient or think of yourself as self - sufficient? When and why?

How can you and your group get better at serving one another's interests?

In the light of this study how do you now feel about Tim Keller's statement at the start of this sheet – “*We will not know God, change deeply or win the world apart from community*”?



## TAKE ACTION

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Write down some specific ways and some specific people you and your group can support, encourage, care for in the coming days.



## PRAY IT THROUGH

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- THANK God for your Christian community and the care, support and encouragement you have received.
- PRAY that Christ's love will ignite your heart to love and serve others.
- PRAY that we will be the kind of community discussed in this study.

# GOSPEL IN LIFE

SMALL GROUPS SHEET  
WEEK BEGINNING 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

## 4. COMMUNITY - The Context For Change

Oakhall  
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



## FOR STARTERS

### Read 1 Peter 2:9-10

Peter says that God’s purpose in history is to glorify himself by forging a new humanity / community of people who follow and believe in him.

On Sunday evening we were reminded of the importance of the Christian community – “We will not know God, change deeply or win the world apart from community.” (T Keller)

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

What practices make a good, strong, healthy Christian community?

### Read Romans 12:9-16



## INVESTIGATE

From Romans 12:9-16 identify all the different practical expressions of sincere, devoted, brotherly love for one another:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Which of these practical expressions of love do you demonstrate well as a group? In which areas could you improve? What practical steps could you take?

Discuss what is meant and implied by the following word pictures for the Christian community:

- **God’s family / household** (Gal 6:10; Eph 2:19; 1 Pet 4:17; Rom 12:10)
- **The body of Christ** (1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:25; Rom 12:4-5)



## THINK IT THROUGH

The implications of being part of God’s *family* and Christ’s *body* are spelled out in dozens of ‘one-another’ passages in the New Testament. In the following verses identify the community-building practices and discuss what they mean / look like in reality:

- *Romans 15:7* \_\_\_\_\_
- *1 Peter 5:5* \_\_\_\_\_
- *James 1:19* \_\_\_\_\_
- *James 2:1* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Ephesians 4:2* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Ephesians 4:32 / Col 3:13* \_\_\_\_\_
- *1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11* \_\_\_\_\_
- *1 Peter 4:9* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Galatians 6:2* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Galatians 6:10* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Colossians 3:16* \_\_\_\_\_
- *Hebrews 10:24-25* \_\_\_\_\_
- *1 Thessalonians 3:12* \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these community building practices could you improve in as a group... and how?

In Galatians 6:2 when Paul urges us to “*carry each other’s burdens...*” he is saying “don’t let others carry their burdens alone, and don’t try to carry your own burden alone. Help others and let others help you.”

“It takes a gospel-changed heart to give help unselfishly to others and it takes a gospel-changed heart to receive help unashamedly from others” (Tim Keller). **Discuss.**