

## **Short Sheet # 4 Christian Community**

We were not born to be alone. God created us for relationship. So we have been born first into the human family and then as Christians born again into the family of God. We are all in community somewhere, whether in our families, at school, work or whatever. Yet we often feel isolated and often very lonely. Loneliness is the very opposite of community, and loneliness is one of the most crushing of emotions. It is by design and not caprice that we find loneliness crushing. Only in community can we become fully alive, fully human, finding completeness in the context of others. (From "Out of the Saltshaker" by Rebecca Manley Pippett). Summer staff spend most of their time with other members of summer staff. It is important to think through how we relate to each other in this environment to assure that our witness in our relationships is honouring to God, to each other and to the campers.

1. Read 1 John 1:1-3. What is the basis for fellowship with other Christians?
  
2. Read John 17:23, Acts 4:32, and Ephesians 4:2-3. What must characterise the body of believers, and why?
  
3. In Acts 2:42-47, how did the believers take part in fellowship with one another?
  
4. Why is fellowship important according to each of the following verses?
  - a. Proverbs 13:20
  - b. Proverbs 27:17
  - c. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
  - d. Hebrews 3:12-13
  
5. How do the following verses help us to think about our actions in community?
  - a. Matt. 7:1
  - b. Matt 5:23
  - c. Matt. 6:14-15
  - d. Eph. 4:25-27
  - e. 1 Cor. 12: 12-26
  - f. James 13-12
  
6. Where are your strengths and weaknesses in the area of community? Write down some things you need to work on and some strategies for working on them.