

**Name of Assembly:** United Apostolic Church

**Type of service:** Bible Study

**Date:** March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Series Topic:** “**Living the 7 Ministry Pillars**”

**Lesson 5:** “**The Biblical Mandate & Purpose of Corporate Gathering**”

**Scripture Text:** Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:46-47; Psalm 122:1



## **INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing our Bible Study series, “**Living the 7 Ministry Pillars**,” by focusing on “**The Biblical Mandate & Purpose of Corporate Gathering**.”

This is a two-session lesson exploring the biblical mandate for gathering, the spiritual rewards of faithful presence, and practical ways to overcome the barriers that keep us from the table.

By the end of this session, we will:

- ⇒ Understand the biblical commands and examples that call believers to gather for corporate worship.
- ⇒ Identify the rich spiritual benefits of consistent fellowship.
- ⇒ Grasp the profound role corporate worship plays in glorifying God and actively strengthening the body of Christ as a whole, not merely as individuals.
- ⇒ Make a personal commitment to prioritize regular church attendance as an essential and non-negotiable spiritual discipline.

## Attendance Questionnaire

### Which services have you attended in the past month?

*Select all that apply*

- Sunday School (Sundays, 9:30 AM)
- Sunday Morning Service (Sundays, 11:00 AM)
- Sunday Evening Service (Sundays, 7:00 PM)
- Tuesday Prayer & Bible Study (7:00 PM)
- Youth Service
- None of the above

### How many services have you attended this month?

- Sunday School \_\_\_\_/4
- Sunday Morning Service \_\_\_\_/4
- Sunday Evening Service \_\_\_\_/3
- Prayer & Bible Study \_\_\_\_/3
- Youth Service \_\_\_\_/1

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Are there barriers preventing more regular attendance?

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# Answer Key & Scoring Guide

Use this reference to evaluate completed questionnaire and identify engagement levels based on total service visits across all fifteen services in the past month.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>High Engagement</b> <b>Total visits: 10 or more.</b> Consistently present across multiple services each week.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Moderate Engagement</b> <b>Total visits: 6–9.</b> Regular attendance with some variety.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Low Engagement</b> <b>Total visits: 1–5.</b> Occasional or single-service attendance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Inactive / Absent</b> <b>Total visits: 0</b> (selected "None of the above").</p>

## Steps to Improve Your Engagement

If you find yourself between Moderate and Inactive engagement, take heart—small steps matter. Choose one intentional action this month, and trust that steady faithfulness can open the door to deeper connection.

→ **Start with One**

Commit to attending at least one additional service next month. Small, consistent steps build lasting habits.

→ **Connect with a Ministry Leader**

Reach out to pastor or a ministry leader who can walk alongside you and help address any barriers to attendance.

→ **Invest in your Church**

Engagement grows through relationship. Consider joining a small group or volunteering.

## My Commitment & Next Steps

*Use this space to write one personal goal for the coming month to improve your engagement and explain the steps you will take to achieve it.*

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## **BIBLICAL MANDATE FOR CORPORATE GATHERING**

When believers gather in worship, we participate in something far greater than a weekly routine. Corporate gathering is a divine design, a sacred practice commanded by Scripture and exemplified throughout biblical history.

This study explores God’s heart for His people assembling, the spiritual power unleashed when we worship in unity, and why consistent fellowship remains essential for every believer’s spiritual health and growth.

## **THE FOUNDATION: GOD’S DESIGN FOR COMMUNITY**

From the very beginning, God declared, “**It is not good that the man should be alone**” (Genesis 2:18). This principle extends beyond marriage into every dimension of human existence, including our spiritual lives. We were never meant to walk the journey of faith in isolation.

Throughout Scripture, God relates to His people collectively—as a nation, a family, a body. The Old Testament reveals God gathering Israel at Mount Sinai, in the tabernacle, and at the temple. The New Testament shows the early church “**continuing steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship**” (Acts 2:42).

## THE BIBLICAL COMMANDS TO GATHER

- (1) Hebrews 10:24-25, “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.*”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (TLB), “<sup>24</sup> *In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good.* <sup>25</sup> *Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*”

- (2) Acts 2:46-47, “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.*”
- (3) Psalm 122:1, “*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.*”

## THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING

God calls believers to assemble together for multifaceted, divine purposes. Our corporate gatherings are not merely social events but sacred assemblies designed to fulfill His will and foster our spiritual well-being. Each purpose intertwines with the others to form a robust, unshakeable foundation for the Christian life.

Together, they answer one of the most important questions a believer can ask: *Why does gathering matter?*

1. **Purpose #1 - To Glorify God Collectively:** Our main purpose in gathering is to provide corporate worship to our Creator. When we come together as one body, our voices and hearts unite in a declaration that goes beyond the individual — it becomes a unified proclamation of His worthiness and majesty before all of heaven and earth.

**“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!”— Psalm 95:6**

Corporate worship isn't just a warm-up for the “real” event — it is the event. When God's people gather, something beautiful and sacred happens that no individual act of worship can fully reproduce.

2. **To Build Up and Edify One Another:** Fellowship is vital for mutual encouragement, teaching, and spiritual growth. We are called to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. As Hebrews 10:24-25 commands, “*Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together.*” Our gatherings create a sacred space where this mutual ministry happens.

The Greek word for “**stir up**” — *paroxysmos* — carries the idea of **provoking or inciting**. We are commanded not merely to attend church, but to actively provoke one another to greater love and more faithful obedience.

### **What Edification Looks Like in Practice**

Building one another up requires active effort — it demands deliberate intention in the lives of those around us. The author of Hebrews provides a vivid picture of what a united, uplifting community truly does.

- **Teaching & Instruction:** Grounding one another in the Word of God through preaching, study, and mentorship that transforms how we think and live.
- **Mutual Encouragement:** Bearing one another’s burdens and offering hope and comfort to those who are weary, doubting, or grieving in the journey of faith.
- **Spurring Toward Good Works:** Challenging each other to move beyond comfort — toward generosity, service, and the active expression of faith in the world.

- **Discussion:** Who in your life has “stirred you up” toward love and good works? Who are you stirring up to do good works?

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3. **To Proclaim the Gospel:** Our collective gathering is never meant to be inward-only. It serves as a beacon of truth to a watching world — a living demonstration of the transforming power of Jesus Christ. When the church assembles, the Gospel is put on display.

Matthew 28:19-20 instructs us to “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*” The Great Commission is not merely the task of a few missionaries — it is the collective calling of the whole gathered church. Every service, every small group, every act of hospitality is a potential doorway for someone to encounter the living God.

#### 4. **To Experience Accountability and Holistic Growth:**

Within the community of faith, we find the support, correction, and wisdom we need to mature spiritually. We cannot grow into the fullness of Christ in isolation. We need the friction, the challenge, and the love that only a genuine Christian community provides.

Proverbs 27:17 states, “*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*” This proverb captures a profound truth: **sharpening requires contact.** A knife left alone grows dull. It takes the intentional, sometimes uncomfortable friction of iron on iron to create a sharp edge. Similarly, it is with souls shaped in community.

#### **The Marks of an Accountable Community**

Spiritual accountability in the church is not about policing one another — it is about **walking together toward holiness.** It requires vulnerability, trust, and a shared commitment to Christlikeness.

- **Honest Correction:** Speaking the truth in love when a brother or sister wanders — gently restoring, not condemning. Galatians 6:1

- **Shared Wisdom:** Drawing on the collective experience and discernment of the body — learning from those who have walked the road ahead of us.
- **Steadfast Support:** Bearing one another’s burdens in the hard seasons — grief, doubt, temptation — so that no believer faces the battle alone.
- **Growth in Holiness:** The goal is that through fellowship, each member grows more like Christ in character, word, and deed.
- **Discussion:** Who in your life has “stirred you up” toward love and good works? Who are you stirring up to do good works?

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5. **To Reflect the Unity of the Body of Christ:** Our assembly showcases the **beautiful diversity and profound unity** found only in Christ. Though we come from different backgrounds, cultures, and walks of life, we are knit together as one body — each part essential, each member

interconnected. This is one of the most stunning testimonies the church offers to the world.

**“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ”— 1 Corinthians 12:12.** The unity of the church isn’t uniformity — it is a Spirit-driven harmony of diverse gifts, personalities, and stories all submitted to the same Lord.

Every member is indispensable. No gift is insignificant. Each member serves equally as a recipient of the body’s ministry and as a crucial contributor to its strength and testimony.

**Discussion:** [What steps could you take to contribute to greater unity here at the United Apostolic Church?](#)

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