



1. Take a few minutes to see how everyone is doing in tracking their goals.
2. How important is it to have someone in your life who is for you, who is on your side, who wants the best for you? Do you have someone, other than God, like that? How important is it to have consistent encouragement in your life? Read Hebrews 10:24,25. Who should be doing this? What do you think it means to “spur on”?
3. Are there people in your life that you make it a point to be an encouragement to them? What ways do you encourage them? How could you become better at encouraging others?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. In verse 13, it says we have all been baptized into one body by the spirit. What does that mean and when did it happen? Why do you think God used this analogy for the church? What are things in this passage a part of the body should never think or say? Based on this analogy, what is our responsibility to our fellow Christians?
5. Pastor Rick said there are three reasons why walking together provides stability, what were they? Have you ever experienced any of these? How?
6. Should a Christian ever be lonely? Why or why not? If you are lonely, what is the cure as a Christian? Are you aware of any lonely people around you? If there are any, what should you do?
7. Having relationships in the community of the church is God’s answer to what five struggles in life? Are you experiencing any of these things? What should you do?

## **Answers**

- 1. See if anyone is having any problems and have the group offer any solutions.**
- 2. It is very important to have encouragement, God created us to need it to succeed in our spiritual walk with the Lord. All believers should be “spurring each other on” to serve God, mainly through encouragement.**
- 3. Have your members offer ways to be an encouragement to others. One of the main ways to become an encouragement to others is to think about doing it on a regular basis and make plans on how to encourage someone in your life.**
- 4. The baptism that is being referred to is a spiritual baptism that happened the moment you trusted Christ as Savior. The Holy Spirit indwelt you and immersed (baptized) you into the body of Christ. Every believer has been baptized by the Spirit. This is a great analogy because in our human body, whenever one part hurts, the other parts come to its rescue. We should never think or say that we are a more important part than any other part nor should we ever say that we do not need a particular part, all parts are equally important. Our responsibility is for the welfare of all of the parts in the body.**
- 5. The three things are: a. It's safer; b. It's supportive; and c. It's smarter. Have your members give some examples of how having a relationship with someone else was safer, supportive, and smarter.**
- 6. We are all lonely at times when circumstances separate us from others, but it should never be for long if you are a Christian since we are part of a body that cares for all of the parts and we have a community. We should be sensitive to those around us and if we detect someone is experiencing loneliness we should see it as our responsibility to reach out to them and provide some companionship, especially for other Christians. Sometimes this means reaching out to a disagreeable person, because they might be lonely because they drive others away. They are EGR (Extra Grace Required) people.**
- 7. The five struggles that we are rescued from through community are: a. Loneliness; b. Fatigue; c. Defeat (spiritual); d. Despair; and e. Fear. If you are experiencing any of these you should do three things: a. First determine if there are things you do that drive people away and stop them from wanting to be with you; b. Take the initiative to become involved in the lives of other Christians and encourage them. They will then reciprocate (usually) and you will have a community to assist you with your struggles; c. Let your community know what you need help with, people cannot read your mind.**