

## 4. Sharing Gifts

**4a.** Can you see a sharing of gifts/talents/skills within the fishing partnership?

**4b.** How is the sharing of gifts expressed in communion (both theologically and practically)?

Philippians 4 <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do everything through him who gives me strength. <sup>14</sup>Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup>Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church *koinonia*/shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup>for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

**4c.** How does Paul's experience illustrate the concept of giving and receiving gifts?

**4d.** What part does humility play in both giving and receiving?

**4e.** What are the gifts that your congregation could offer/receive in a partnership?

# Exploring Koinonia

## Study Two

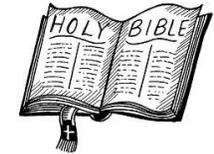
### Partnership in Action

Study One explored interpretations of κοινωνία (*koinonia*). It was all Greek to most (Kappa, Omicron, Iota, Nu, Omega, Nu, Iota, Alpha) but hopefully a new understanding was gained.

Two central readings:

Luke 5:1-11

1 Corinthians 10:16-17



We will look at these two readings in terms of four key concepts, and also share some other readings to deepen our understanding.

## 1. Commonality

**1a.** What things did the fishermen (from the story in Luke 5) have in common?

**1b.** How is the “common unity” experienced in communion?



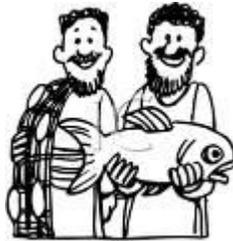
Philippians 2 <sup>1</sup>If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any *koinonia* with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

**1c.** How have we failed to demonstrate this common unity?

**1d.** Think of a group that is already in a form of partnership with your local church – what is the point(s) of commonality with them?

## 2. Diversity

**2a.** How are the differences between the fishermen seen? Consider the various tasks that might have to be done.



Galatians 2 <sup>8</sup>For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. <sup>9</sup>James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of *koinonia* when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. <sup>10</sup>All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

**2b.** What differences in personality/character could you identify between Peter, James and John?



**2c.** How is our diversity expressed in communion (theologically and in practice)?

**2d.** Consider a partnership that your congregation has – how is the diversity of that partnership reflected?

## 3. Journeying together

**3a.** How could the fishing partnership be seen as a journey?

**3b.** How is a sense of journey expressed in communion?

Philippians 1 <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your *koinonia* partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1 <sup>6</sup>If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you *koinonia*/share in our sufferings, so also you *koinonia*/share in our comfort.

**3c.** What do these verses say to you about the sense of journey in a *koinonia* partnership?

**3d.** Identify a partnership that your congregation has worked with over a number of years – what changes have happened in terms of the relationship?