

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 ¹²I 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. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength. ¹⁴Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, 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; ¹⁶for 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

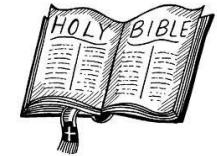
Partnership in Action

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 ¹If 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, ²then 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 ⁸For 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. ⁹James, 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. ¹⁰All 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 ³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your *koinonia* partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being 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 ⁶If 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. ⁷And 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?