CONTEND:
Passionate prayer fuelled by holy discontent

Praying in Community

[Acts 4:32-35 (NLT)]

READING

32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

MAIN POINTS:

- Understanding community based on the early church in Acts
- Praying together based on our understanding of community
- United in heart and mind, praying together

MESSAGE SUMMARY

- The early church had a community based on the fundamental principle of being united in heart and mind
- What might this mean for us today?
- UBUNTU – I am because we are. In order to understand myself and my purpose I must be connected to community
- When you are in need I have a role to play
- When I am blessed and highly favoured you should experience this blessing too
- Pray from Deep Compassion – united in heart and mind
- With Great Courage – no one in need
- God to Creatively move – the early church sold their possessions what might God be calling us to do?

STEPS TO PRAYING IN COMMUNITY BASED ON EPHESIANS 6:18-20 QUESTIONS

- **Pray for** *[person or topic]* **Be specific**
- **Ask God to give them what they need:** *[what you are contending for]* **Be bold**
- **So that they can experience God** *[pray for God to intervene]*
- **How you are connected** *[what is your context, why do you care about this]*
- **What we will continue to do** *[our response]*

We believe our God-given vision is to see:
thriving communities springing up,
where everyone can belong and find hope in Jesus.
Group Sunday message notes 2026

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How might we be better connected to be united in heart and mind?
- Who might be the people we can contend for prayer for in community?
- What areas of society should be responding to as a community?

Other Quotes

- *1 John 3:16 - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*
- *Ephesians 6:18-20 - Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. 19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. 20 I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.*
- *"My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours." We belong in a bundle of life. We say, "A person is a person through other persons." -Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*