

THE 28th.LIFE

THE EMBERS

MODULE 7 — CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Growing Stronger Together

Module Overview

God never intended for us to follow Jesus alone.

From the very beginning, God declared, "It is not good for man to be alone." Throughout Scripture, we see that God's people are called into community—not simply to attend the same church, but to live as a family of faith that worships together, encourages one another, serves side by side, and grows together in Christ.

When we become followers of Jesus, we are adopted into God's family and become part of His Church—the Body of Christ. Every believer has a unique place, a unique purpose, and unique gifts that contribute to the health and mission of the whole body.

Christian community is where our faith is strengthened, our character is refined, and our love for God is expressed through our love for others. It is where we find encouragement during difficult seasons, accountability when we drift, wisdom when we are uncertain, and opportunities to serve using the gifts God has given us.

John Wesley understood that believers grow best in authentic Christian community. Through class meetings and small groups, he encouraged Christians to regularly pray together, study Scripture together, confess struggles honestly, and encourage one another toward holy living.

Isolation weakens faith.

Community strengthens it.

As the embers of your faith continue to grow, you'll discover that God often works through other believers to shape your life and prepare you for greater Kingdom impact.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

— Hebrews 10:24–25

Learning Objectives

By the end of Module 7, you will:

- Understand why Christian community is essential for spiritual growth.
- Discover your place within the Body of Christ.
- Learn the importance of encouragement and accountability.
- Practice biblical forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Develop habits of serving alongside other believers.
- Commit to actively participating in the life of your local church.

LESSON 25 — WE BELONG TOGETHER

Theme

Every believer is an important part of the Body of Christ.

Key Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
 - Romans 12:4–8
 - Ephesians 4:11–16
 - Acts 2:42–47
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Big Idea

God designed His Church so that every believer needs one another.

Introduction

Our culture celebrates independence.

The Kingdom of God celebrates interdependence.

When you became a follower of Jesus, you didn't simply begin a personal relationship with God—you became part of a spiritual family.

Paul compares the Church to a human body.

Every part has a purpose.

Every part is valuable.

No part functions well alone.

Just as the eye needs the hand and the hand needs the feet, every believer has been uniquely gifted to strengthen the Church.

God never intended spectators.

He calls every believer to participate.

Living as Part of the Body

Healthy Christian community means:

- Worshiping together.
- Learning together.
- Praying together.
- Serving together.
- Celebrating together.
- Carrying one another's burdens.

When each member faithfully contributes, the entire Body grows stronger.

Reflection

1. How has Christian community encouraged your faith?
 2. What gifts has God given you to strengthen others?
 3. In what ways can you become more involved in your local church?
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Weekly Challenge

Reach out to someone from your church or small group this week.

Encourage them with a phone call, message, or time together.

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for placing me in Your family. Help me value the Church, serve faithfully, and encourage others as we grow together in Christ.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

— 1 Corinthians 12:27

LESSON 26 — ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Theme

Healthy relationships help us remain faithful to Christ.

Key Scriptures

- Hebrews 10:24–25
- Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

- James 5:16
 - Proverbs 27:17
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Big Idea

God often uses other believers to strengthen, challenge, and encourage our faith.

Introduction

The Christian life has never been meant to be lived in isolation.

There will be moments when your faith feels strong.

There will also be moments when you grow discouraged, distracted, or weary.

During those times, God often strengthens us through the encouragement of fellow believers.

Likewise, we are called to lovingly encourage and challenge one another.

Biblical accountability isn't about judgment.

It's about helping each other become more like Jesus.

True Christian friends celebrate victories, pray through struggles, speak truth in love, and gently restore one another when someone begins to drift.

Building Authentic Relationships

Healthy Christian friendships are marked by:

- Honesty.
- Humility.
- Trust.
- Prayer.
- Grace.
- Truth.
- Encouragement.

These relationships help keep our faith strong through every season.

Reflection

1. Who encourages your spiritual growth?
 2. Who are you intentionally encouraging?
 3. Is there someone you trust enough to hold you accountable?
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Weekly Challenge

Invite a trusted Christian friend to meet regularly for prayer, encouragement, and spiritual accountability.

Prayer

Lord,

Surround me with people who encourage me to follow You faithfully. Help me become the kind of friend who strengthens the faith of others with grace and truth.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

— Proverbs 27:17

LESSON 27 — FORGIVENESS, UNITY, AND RECONCILIATION

Theme

Healthy Christian community is built upon grace, forgiveness, and love.

Key Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:29–32
 - Colossians 3:12–15
 - Matthew 18:15–22
 - Romans 12:17–21
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Big Idea

The Church reflects Jesus best when believers extend the same grace they have received.

Introduction

Wherever people gather, conflict will eventually arise.

Churches are no exception.

The difference isn't whether conflict exists.

The difference is how followers of Jesus respond.

Because we have been forgiven, we forgive.

Because God has shown us mercy, we extend mercy.

Forgiveness doesn't ignore hurt.

It chooses grace over bitterness.

Unity doesn't require everyone to think alike.

It requires everyone to love like Christ.

Healthy churches are not perfect churches.

They are communities where people continually practice forgiveness, humility, and reconciliation.

Living in Unity

Followers of Jesus seek peace by:

- Listening before speaking.
- Speaking truth with love.
- Extending forgiveness.
- Refusing gossip.
- Seeking reconciliation.
- Protecting unity.

Unity is one of the strongest testimonies the Church can offer the world.

Reflection

1. Is there someone you need to forgive?
 2. Is there a relationship God is asking you to restore?
 3. How can you become a peacemaker in your church or family?
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Weekly Challenge

Prayerfully take one step toward reconciliation in a strained relationship, if it is safe and wise to do so.

Prayer

Father,

Thank You for forgiving me through Jesus Christ. Help me extend that same grace to others. Make me a peacemaker who strengthens the unity of Your Church.

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

— Ephesians 4:32

LESSON 28 — SERVING TOGETHER

Theme

Every believer has a place in God's mission.

Key Scriptures

- Mark 10:42–45
 - Galatians 5:13
 - 1 Peter 4:10–11
 - Matthew 20:26–28
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Big Idea

Serving others is one of the greatest expressions of Christian maturity.

Introduction

Jesus didn't come to be served.

He came to serve.

If we desire to become like Christ, we must embrace the same heart.

Service is more than volunteering.

It is a lifestyle.

It is choosing the needs of others above our own comfort.

It is using our gifts to strengthen the Church and bless our communities.

God has uniquely equipped every believer for meaningful service.

Whether teaching, encouraging, organizing, praying, welcoming, giving, leading, or quietly serving behind the scenes, every act of service matters in God's Kingdom.

As we serve together, the Church becomes a living picture of Christ's love.

Discovering Your Place

Ask yourself:

- What gifts has God given me?
- What needs stir my heart?
- Where can I faithfully serve?
- How can I help others grow closer to Jesus?

Serving isn't about recognition.

It's about faithfulness.

Reflection

1. How has someone else's service impacted your life?
2. Where is God inviting you to serve?
3. What gifts could you begin using more intentionally?
4. How does serving strengthen Christian community?

Weekly Challenge

Volunteer in one area of your church or community this week.

Serve with joy, humility, and gratitude, remembering that every act of service is ultimately offered to Christ.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for showing me what it means to serve with humility and love. Help me faithfully use the gifts You've given me to strengthen Your Church and bless those around me. May my service always point others to You.

In Your name,

Amen.

Memory Verse

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace."

— 1 Peter 4:10

Module 7 Wrap-Up

God designed the Christian life to be lived in community. Through the Church, He provides encouragement when we are weary, accountability when we drift, wisdom when we seek direction, and opportunities to grow through serving others.

As you invest in authentic Christian relationships, you become both a recipient and a reflection of God's grace. You discover that spiritual maturity is not only measured by your personal walk

with Christ but also by how faithfully you love, encourage, forgive, and serve the people He has placed around you.

The embers of faith burn brightest when believers gather around the same fire, strengthening one another and shining together as the Body of Christ.

In **Module 8**, the final module of **THE EMBERS**, you'll discover **Living on Mission**. As your faith matures and your relationship with Christ deepens, God calls you to move beyond personal growth and begin intentionally sharing His love with the world. This module will prepare you for the next pathway of **THE 28th.LIFE—THE IGNITION**—where your growing faith becomes an active, Spirit-led life of purpose, influence, and disciple-making.