

Modern Models

The Rhythm of Togetherness

Lessons from Acts 2:42–47 on building authentic community set on fire by the Spirit of God.

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Session Agenda

A roadmap for our time together, exploring the rhythm of togetherness and divine purpose.

01

Rethinking Modern Models

Examining contemporary approaches to community and connection.

02

Defining Authentic Community

Understanding the essence of true togetherness and its various forms.

03

Lessons from the Antioch Model

Delving into the principles of dynamic growth and "sending" culture.

04

Unlocking Your Divine Purpose

Discovering the stages of God's calling, from conception to fruition.

05

Walking in Fulfillment

Applying insights to live out your ordained purpose and impact.

Defining Our Togetherness



What is Community?

The word "community" is used frequently in our modern world, but its depth in the kingdom of God is far more profound than we often realize.

Today we'll explore three pillars: the state of their hearts, the surrender of their wealth, and the desire of God.



Two Definitions of Community

1 Webster's Definition

A group of people living in the same place or having characteristics in common. A feeling of fellowship from sharing attitudes, interests, and goals.

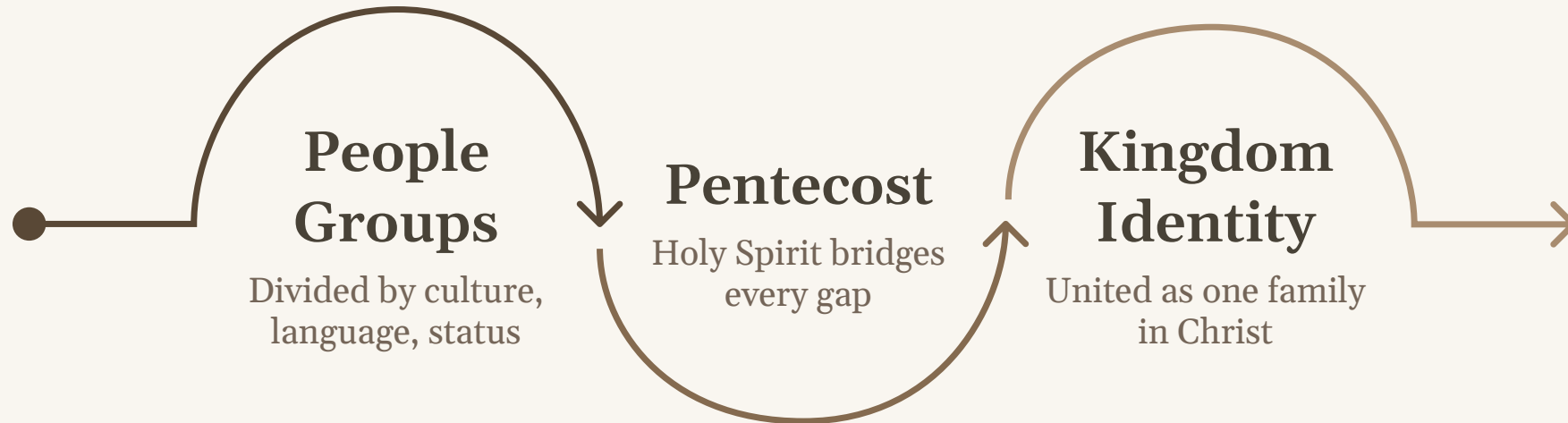
Built on similarity — same neighborhood, same hobbies, same lifestyle.

2 Biblical Definition (Koinonia)

Fellowship, association, communion, and joint participation. Not built on hobbies or zip codes, but on **shared life in Christ**.

The transition from "group of individuals" to "the body of Christ."

From Tribes to One Body



Humanity naturally divides into "people groups," but Acts 2 shows the power of the Holy Spirit to bridge these gaps. At Pentecost, different people groups were woven into a single family.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." — *Galatians 3:28*

The Antioch Church Model (Hub)

The Antioch Church model — derived from Acts 11 and 13 — is widely considered the **biblical blueprint for a missional, multicultural, and apostolic church**. While the Jerusalem church was the "mother church," the Antioch church became the primary "sending hub" that carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

- ☑ In modern ministry, this model is often contrasted with the "Jerusalem model" to advocate for a shift from **inward-focused pastoral care** to **outward-focused global impact**.

Defining the "Hub" Model

The Antioch church functioned as a dynamic center, actively sending out its resources and people for global impact, rather than simply accumulating them.

The Antioch Hub

A central point of mission

Global Reach

Extending influence worldwide

Multicultural

Embracing all nations

Apostolic Leadership

Empowering and commissioning

Resource Mobilization

Pooling and deploying assets

Training & Equipping

Preparing for service

Key Characteristic A: Radical Diversity

Unlike the early Jerusalem church, which was primarily Jewish, Antioch was a "**melting pot.**"



Leadership Diversity

Acts 13:1 lists leaders from vastly different backgrounds: **Barnabas** (a Levite from Cyprus), **Simeon called Niger** (likely North African), **Lucius of Cyrene**, **Manaen** (raised in the royal court of Herod), and **Saul** (a former Pharisee).



Cultural Bridge

It was the **first place** where the Gospel successfully crossed from a Jewish-only audience to the "Hellenists" — Greeks and Gentiles — **making it the original multicultural church community.**

Key Characteristic B: Apostolic & "Sending" Culture

The Jerusalem church tended to grow through attraction or was scattered by persecution. The Antioch church, however, **intentionally released its best talent.**

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." — Acts 13:2, The Holy Spirit

1

Worship & Fasting

The community gathered in prayer and fasting, creating the atmosphere for divine direction.

2

Holy Spirit Speaks

The Spirit identified and called out Barnabas and Saul for a specific Kingdom assignment.

3

Sacrificial Release

They gave up their primary teachers and Kingdom Generals, prioritizing global Kingdom over local comfort.

Key Characteristics C & D

C. Team-Based Leadership

Instead of a single "Senior Pastor" model, Antioch functioned through a **plurality of leaders** — specifically prophets and teachers. This created a culture of **collective discernment** rather than personality-driven ministry.

D. Social Justice & Benevolence

The Antioch model was the first to demonstrate **inter-church relief**. When the prophet Agabus predicted a famine, the believers in Antioch — though a newer church — proactively sent financial aid to the elders in Jerusalem (Acts 11:29).

Antioch vs. Jerusalem Models

In theological and leadership discussions, these two models are often compared to help the modern church understand its calling and direction.

Feature	Jerusalem Model	Antioch Model
Focus	Inward / Preservation of tradition	Outward / Expansion of the Kingdom
Culture	Mono-ethnic (Jewish)	Multi-ethnic (Jew & Gentile)
Structure	Centralized authority (The Apostles)	Decentralized / Sending Hubs
Growth	Growth by attraction/persecution	Growth by intentional "sending"
Identity	Followers of "The Way"	First called "Christians" (Acts 11:26)

Why the Antioch Model Matters Today

Many leaders look to Antioch as a way to solve modern "silos" in the church. Three transformative applications stand out:

Breaking the "Superstar" Culture

By using a team of prophets and teachers, it prevents the church from being built around **one man's personality**, creating resilience and shared ownership of the mission.

Kingdom Mentality

It shifts the goal from "**How many people can we get into our building?**" to "**How many leaders can we send out to impact the world?**"

Cultural Relevance

Because it was a cosmopolitan city, the Antioch model teaches how to present the Gospel in a way that is **culturally accessible without compromising biblical truth.**

The Antioch Summary

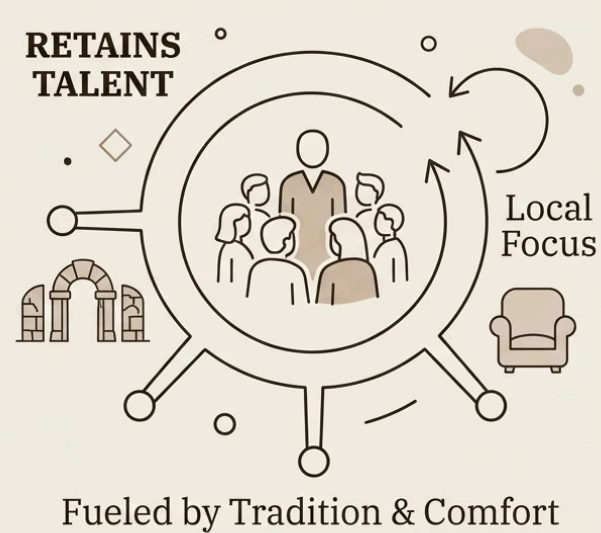
Launching Pad, Not a Cul-de-sac

The Antioch model is about being a community that values the presence of God — worship and fasting — as the fuel for strategic global expansion. It is not a destination; it is a departure point for Kingdom impact.

LAUNCHING PAD (Antioch)



CUL-DE-SAC (Inward Church)



**Key: The Antioch church, however,
intentionally released its best talent.**

Birthing Ministry: Open Your Womb

Luke 1:37-57

A six-stage journey from divine conception to the full maturation of
the ministry God has placed within you.



The Divine Promise

The angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary and her faithful response set the stage. When she visits Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit confirms what God has spoken.

Luke 1:37–57 CSB

37 "For **nothing** will be **impossible** with God."

38 Mary responded, "Here am I, the Lord's slave; may it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in Judah, into the hill country, 40 where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 **When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.** 42 **She exclaimed with a loud cry, "You are more blessed than any other woman, and the baby in your womb is blessed!** 43 How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For listen—when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby within me leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill what he has spoken to her!"

The Magnificat & The Birth

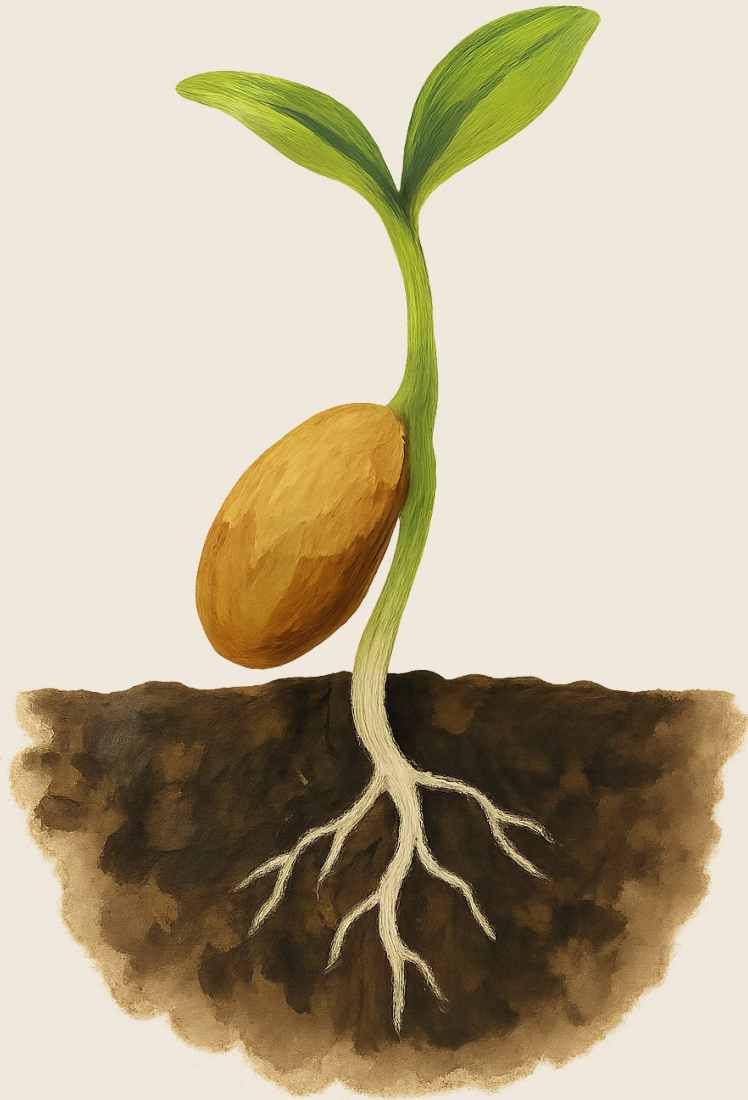
Mary's song of praise — the Magnificat — declares the greatness of God and His faithfulness to all generations. It closes with the fulfillment of Elizabeth's promise.

Luke 1:46–57 CSB

46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 because he has looked with favor on the humble condition of his slave. For from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 because the Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is his name! 50 His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. 51 He has displayed power with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he spoke to our ancestors."

56 Mary stayed with her about three months and then returned to her home.

57 Now the time for Elizabeth to give birth was completed, and she bore a son.



STAGE 1

Conception — What God Thinks About You and Your Gift

Jeremiah 1:4–10 · Romans 8:17–19

Foundation by Definition

The sum of a person's ideas and beliefs concerning something; the origination of something in the mind; the general idea.

God formed in His mind an idea about you and your ministry. Before you were born, He knew you and ordained you. You must get into the mind of God to know who you are and what you are called to do. Your gift did not begin with you — it began with Him.



STAGE 2

Impartation — God Will Convey Your Calling to You

Luke 1:30–33

Foundation by Definition

To give, convey, or grant from a store or source. To communicate the knowledge of: **DISCLOSE.**

God will speak to you in dreams, visions, by a prophetic word, through the Word, or by the Holy Spirit to reveal who you are and your area of ministry. **You will hear the call** — but may not necessarily be excited about it at first. The call is His initiative, not yours.

Impregnation — God Fills You With Desire to Fulfill His Purpose

Matthew 1:18–20

Foundation by Definition

To cause to be filled, imbued, permeated, or saturated.

To permeate thoroughly. To make pregnant:

FERTILIZE.

God, by the power and authority of the Holy Spirit, places a burden for ministry and a desire to fulfill your purpose within you. He gives you the ideas and concepts that you must see come to pass. This is not ambition — it is divine impregnation.



STAGE 4

Gestation — Guard Your Desire (Baby) in the Womb

Matthew 1:19–21 · Luke 1:39–48 · Matthew 2:1–12

Foundation by Definition

The carrying of young in the uterus. Conception and development especially in the mind.

The ministry in your spirit must be nurtured, guarded, and protected while God deals with you on birthing it. **Do not cast your pearl before swine.** Surround yourself with visionaries — like Joseph and Elizabeth — who will protect and celebrate what God is doing in you. Avoid legalistic folks and the Herods who wish to abort your baby.

STAGE 5

Fruition — The Kingdom of God Needs You to Have Your Baby

Luke 1:42 · Luke 2:41–50 · See also: Esther

Foundation by Definition

A state of bearing fruit:

REALIZATION. Birth — the act of bringing the young from the womb; a state resulting from being born at a particular time and place.

When — not if — your ministry comes forth, you can now walk in the purpose God has placed on your life. There is a divinely ordained sphere of influence you must touch through the Anointing on your life and the ministry within you.



Maturation — Once Your Baby Is Born, It Must Grow

Luke 2:51–52 · John 3:21–22 · Luke 4:16–19

Foundation by Definition

The process of becoming mature: having attained a final or desired state; the emergence of personal and behavioral characteristics through the growth process.

Once birthed, your ministry must still grow. Submit yourself to leaders who can help mature your gift in the power of the Holy Ghost. As your ministry matures, you will gain favor with both God and Man. **But remember — it's the Anointing, not you.**



Conception

God's idea about you



Impartation

God discloses your calling



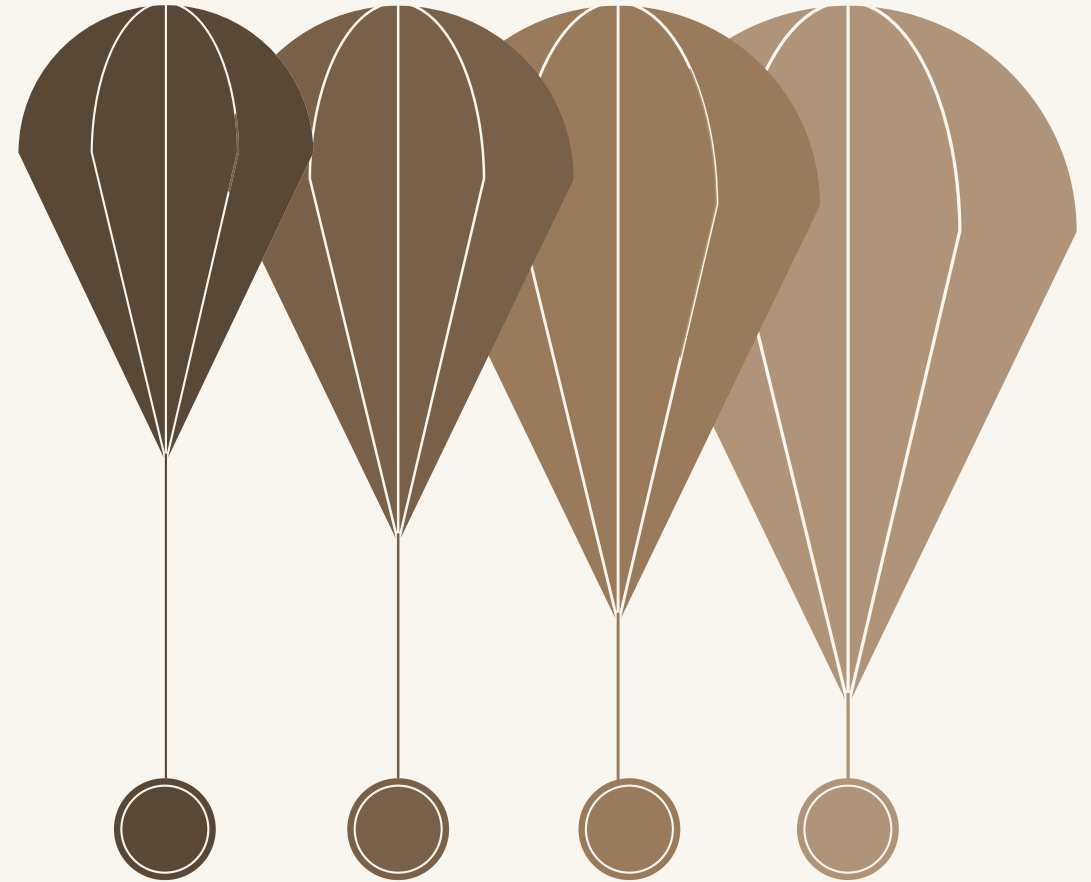
Impregnation

God fills you with desire



Gestation

Guard and nurture the vision



Each stage builds on the last — from the mind of God to the fullness of your ordained purpose.

Process: Endure the Labor — Enjoy the Birth!

John 16:21

"If you can take the weight of the Anointing — Ministry can come forth. Joy will follow!"

Travail

Work especially of a painful or laborious nature; physical or mental exertion — to labor hard.

Joy

An emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune; a state of happiness or felicity; bliss; a source or cause of delight.



A painting of a person from behind, standing in a field with arms raised towards a bright, golden sunset sky. The person is wearing a brown jacket and dark pants. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the center of the sky, surrounded by soft, orange and yellow clouds. The field in the foreground is a mix of green and yellow, suggesting tall grass or crops. The overall mood is one of hope, praise, and connection with nature.

Walk in Your Purpose

*Luke 1:37 — "For with God **nothing** shall be **impossible**."*

Conceived by God

Your ministry began in the mind of God before you were born.

Guarded in the Spirit

Protect your calling.
Surround yourself with visionaries.

Birthed in Due Season

Endure the labor. The joy of ministry awaits on the other side.

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